FEATURING BILAL, BENNATO, HAYES, DIAZ, RIVERA, CARDOSELLI AND MORE!

HEAVY METAL®

#263

THE WORLD'S GREATEST ILLUSTRATED MA

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HEAVY METAL 263

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MICHAEL C. HAYES

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DARAF

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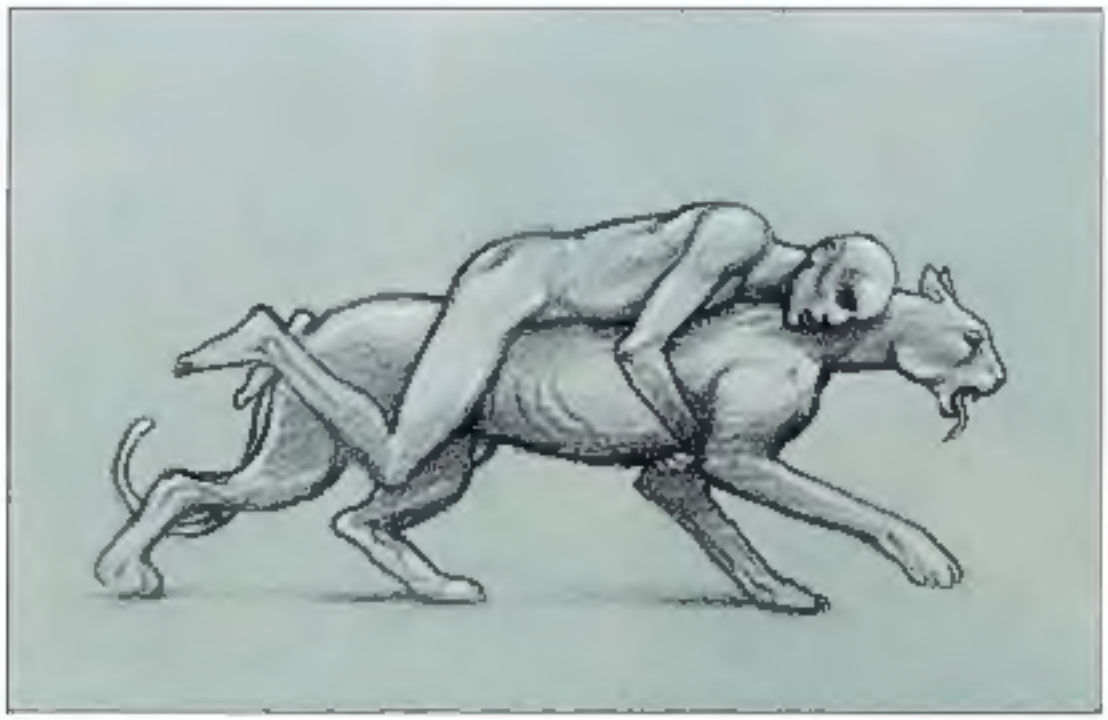


...RADIO-FILTER RECALLS THAT MOST OF THE INFORMATION CURRENTLY CIRCULATING ON THE PLANETARY WAVES IS NOT VERIFIABLE. RADIO-FILTER CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT THE JOURNALISTIC ETHICS OF ITS MEMBERS, OR THOSE OF THE SCIENTISTS THAT PROVIDE INFORMATION IN THIS DARK TIME, ARE DEPENDABLE.
THE RELIABILITY OF THE INFORMATION SELECTED ABOVE RATES 6 ON A SCALE OF 10...

WEATHER-INFO CHANNEL PASSED ON YOUR SECTOR ... END OF TRANSMISSION FOR RADIO-FILTER DAY 4 OF MONTH 40 ...

ON THE HORIZON - AHEAD AT NOON! I NEED YOUR EYES, HIM! IT'S TOO FAR FOR MY BINOCULARS ...

YOUR BINOCULARS ARE FUCKED, DAD ...

YOU PERCEPTION IS CORRECT ...

... LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN SEE, THEN ...

" I SEE ... AFRIKANS ... BLACK, NORTH AFRICANS. A DOZEN IN TOTAL, SPREAD OVER TWO BOATS LOADED WITH A FLEET OF TANKS ... SMUGGLERS — YOUNG OVERALL BOYS AND GIRLS — I ALSO SEE A LOT OF WEAPONS ..."

THEY'RE SPEEDING WESTWARD AT TWELVE KNOTS!

AH, YOU KNOW THAT YOUR USUAL ABILITIES ARE REALLY BEGINNING TO WORRY ME?

JUST ASSUME THE BEST, DAD ...

THERE'S A DRONE INFO VIDEO COMING ON ... IT'S A MINI DOCUMENTARY ON D 17 ...

I'VE SEEN IT. IT'S MODERATELY FUNNY ...

AND WHAT OF POZZANO AND ADRIA 4?

I TRY REGULARLY ... STILL NOTHING ...

I DON'T LIKE THIS CONNECTION THAT ONLY WORKS IN ONE DIRECTION ... I'M WARY OF MICHELANGELO ...

WHAT ABOUT ALL THE OTHERS THAT YOU DON'T HEAR FROM? YOUR "CONNECTED" LAST GENERATION, SCATTERED ACROSS THE GLOBE ... YOU'RE NOT SUSPICIOUS OF THEM?

WE ARE ALONE ON STRAIT 97 ... POEZANO IS ALONE WITH THE FORMAL NETWORK. MOST OF THE OTHERS WERE TRAPPED AT GIBRALTAR ... AND CONTRARY TO WHAT YOU MAY THINK, MY LITTLE KIM, I WILL MISS SOME OF THEM. I TOO HAVE HAD A FEW FRIENDS IN MY LIFE ...

WHY NOT SEND A DRONE TO ACHIA 4?

THE DRONES ARE OUR CREW ... THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT WE'D LOSE IT ...

I'LL SWIM. YOU COMING, KIM?

"... ZONE 17, ALONG THE FINAL APPROACH TO THE NORTHERN STRAIT COAST. SNOW ONGOING AND FORECAST AT ...
- ATTENTION. THIS SNOW IS TOXIC! WE REPEAT: THE SNOW IS TOXIC! "

"... AND AFTER MY DEATH, AN AVALANCHE WILL ENSHROUD ME. AND THE WHITE SNOW, FALLING LIKE SILVER OVER MY BODY, WILL RISE ..."
THÉOPHILE GAUTIER — "THE HUNTER" —

THE NEXT WEATHER BULLETIN ON RADIO-FILTER COMES AT SUNSET ...

DID YOU KNOW THAT "THE HUNTER" IS MY FAVORITE?

3 KILOMETERS ...

GOT NOTHING TO SAY, KEEP A SAFE, RESPECTFUL DISTANCE ...

... FERDINAND OWLES CALLED BORIA & FERDINAND OWLES CALLED MICHELANGELO AND ANA POZZANO ...

BORIA

I BELIEVE THAT WE CAN MESSAGE YOU, BUT YOURS AREN'T COMING THROUGH TO US ... I WILL TRY ANOTHER TEST LATER ...

FERDINAND OWLES...

FOR NOW, I'VE SENT ALL THE LATEST ON STRAIT 17, IT WAS CAPTURED BY THE DRONE-INFO AGENCY AND RELAYED BY THE NETWORK ...

INCREDIBLE ...

I WILL RESUME LATER ... AND SEND PICTURES ...

VERY SERIOUS ... YES. AN EPIDEMIC ... I DO NOT KNOW WHAT IT IS ... ALL THOSE PEOPLE ARE DEAD ...

"AND YOU, AREN'T YOU CONTAMINATED?"

NIHILIST

ONE DIES WITHIN FIFTEEN SECONDS AFTER CONTAMINATION ...

"AND YOUR FACIAL INJURIES?"

DRONE info

AN ALTERCATION ... WITH ANIMALS ... ...

"ANIMALS?"

YES. ANIMALS.

"AND THE SMOKE BEHIND YOU?"

IT'S THE MILITARY ... BURNING BODIES ... THEY'RE HERE TO SECURE THE AREA, BUT IT WILL TAKE TIME ...

DRON

"THE MILITARY? WHAT ARMY?"

NO IDEA ... ANYWAY, I'VE GOT TO GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE! I KNOW WE CAN GO FURTHER SOUTH!

"YOU WEAR A CAP MARKED 'NIHILIST.' ARE YOU A NIHILIST? YOU DON'T HAVE THE AIR."

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

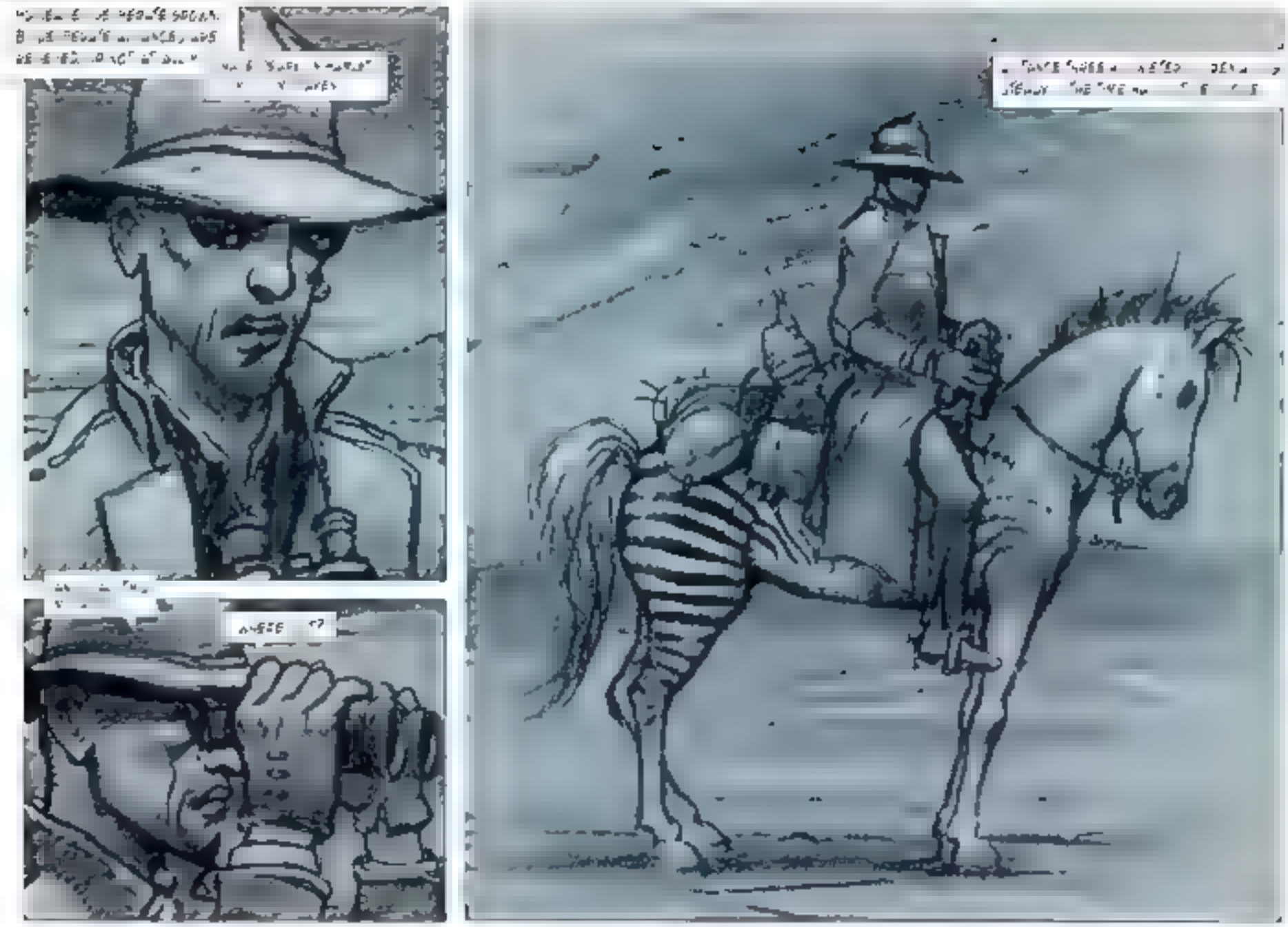
DRONE info

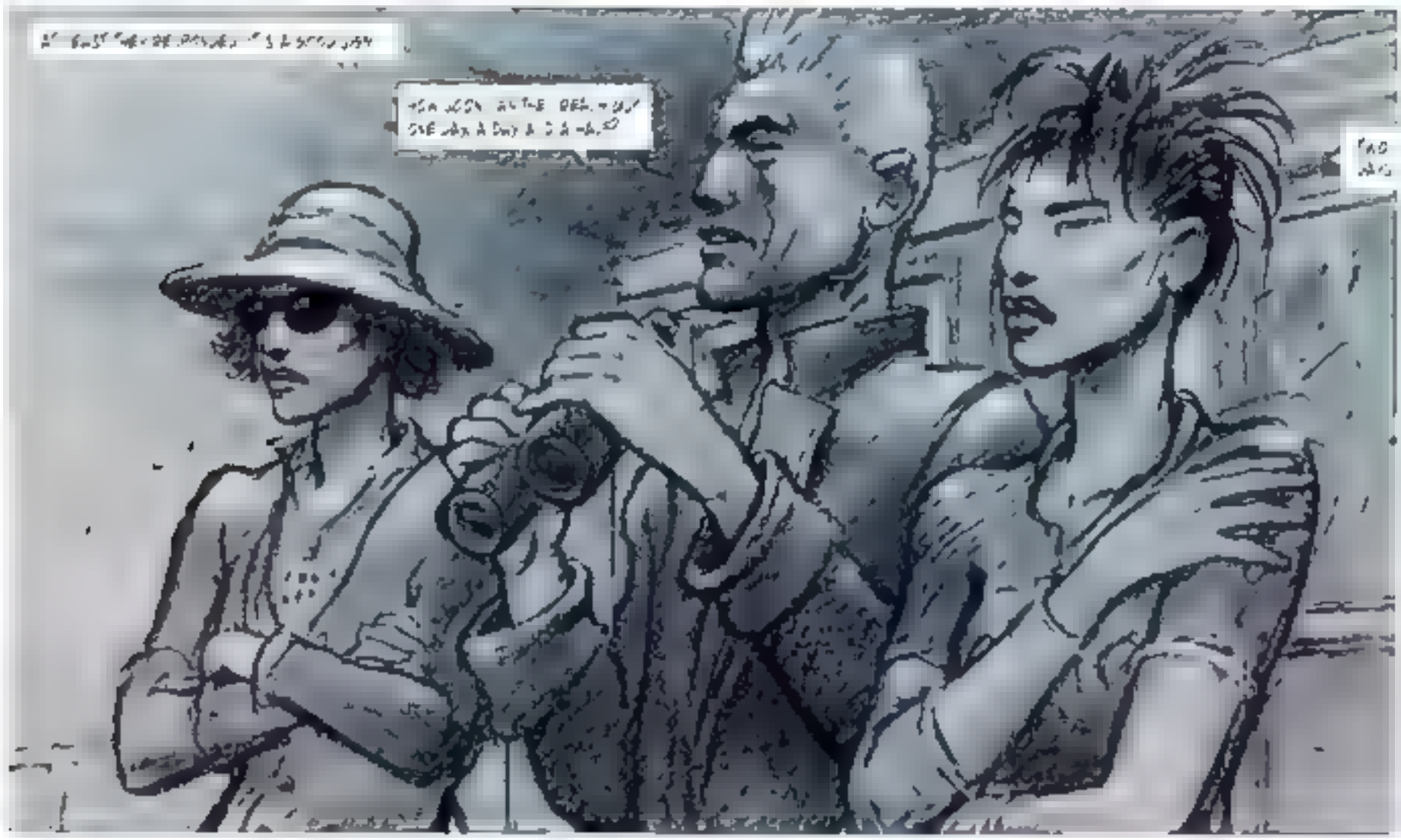
... YOU SEE, IT'S ALL DONE WITH THE USE OF TONES ... NOW, IF YOU'VE RECEIVED THIS MESSAGE, I SUGGEST YOU START IN A FEW MINUTES. BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF NIGHT. USE A FLARE, TYPE C VERTICAL ... WELL ...

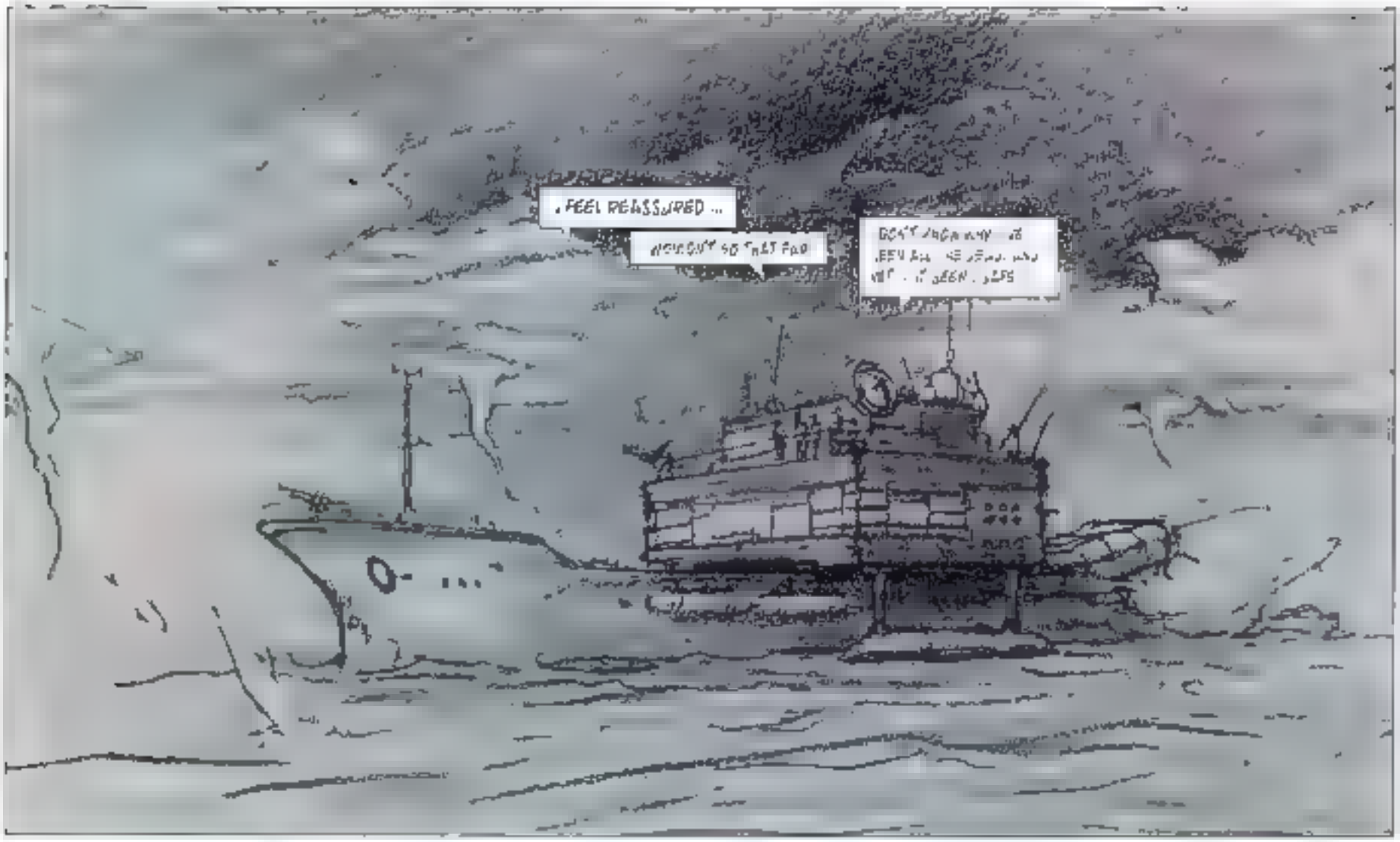
END OF TRANSMISSION ...

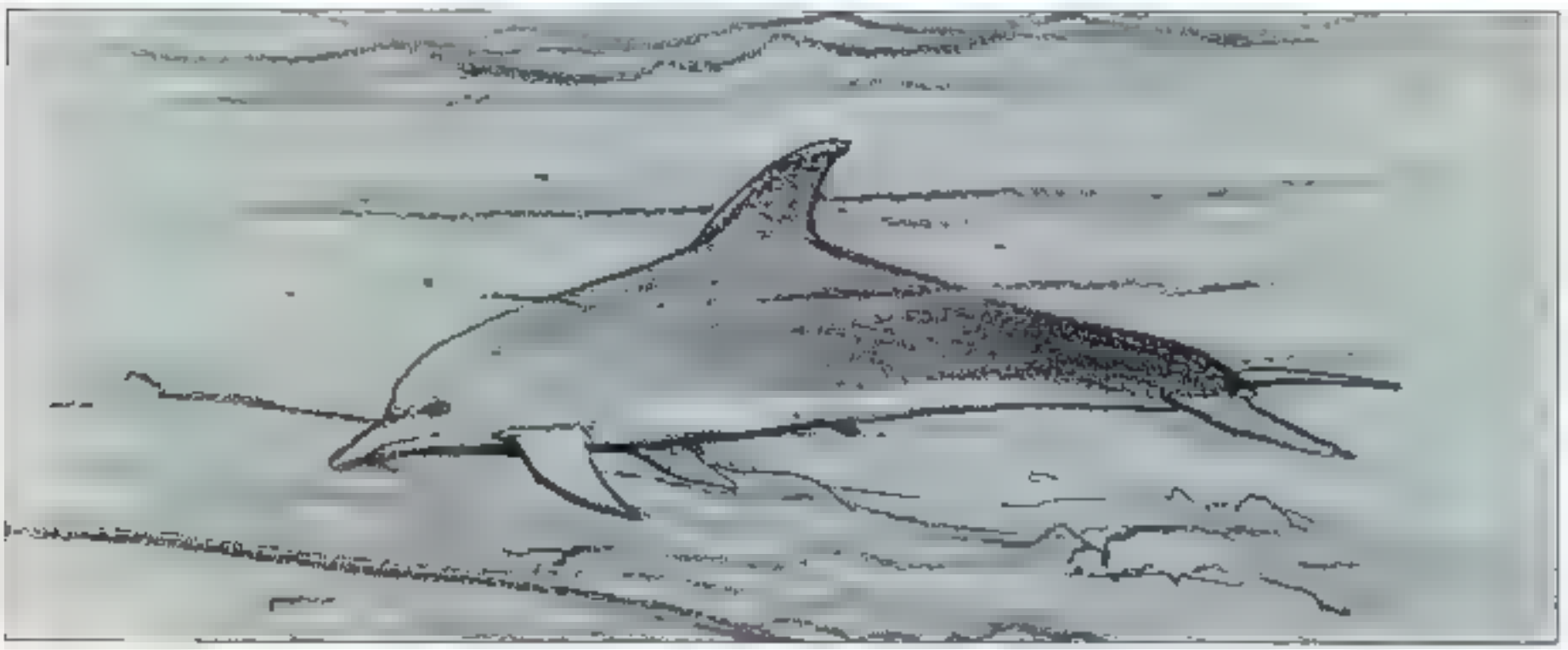
YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND, SIR OWLES ... AS ALWAYS ...

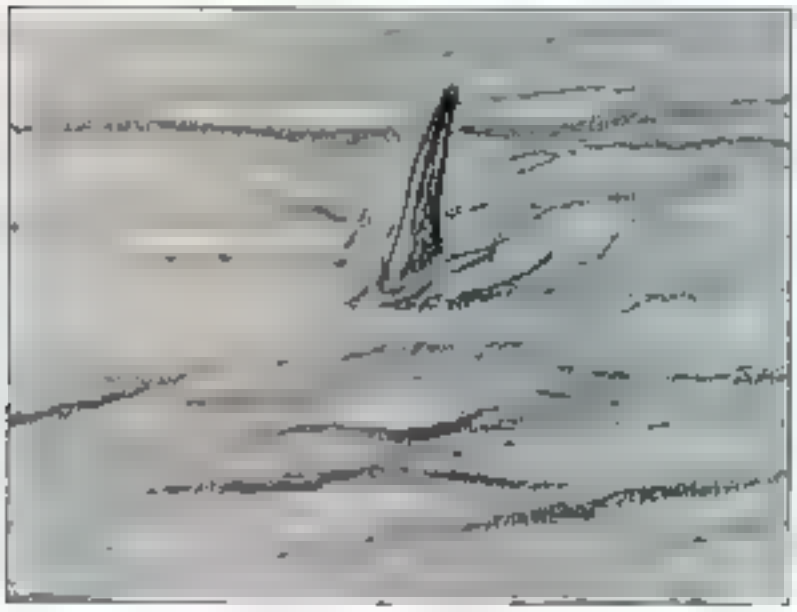
RED ROCKET, HA, HA! ... THE WORLD'S DISINTEGRATING, AND YET THERE'S STILL A DISTRESS CALL FOR HELP ...

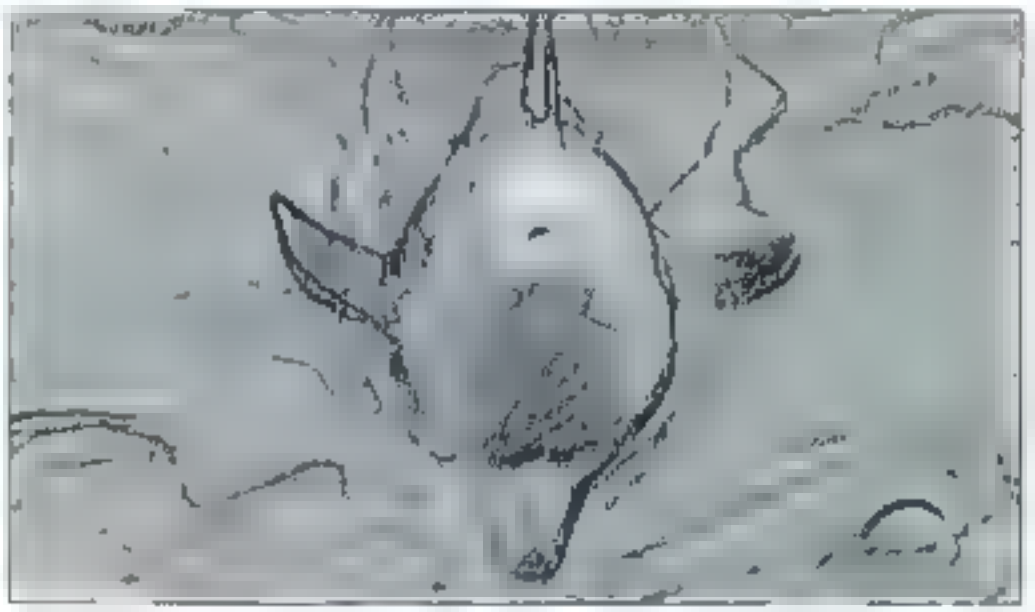





I FEEL REASSURED ...



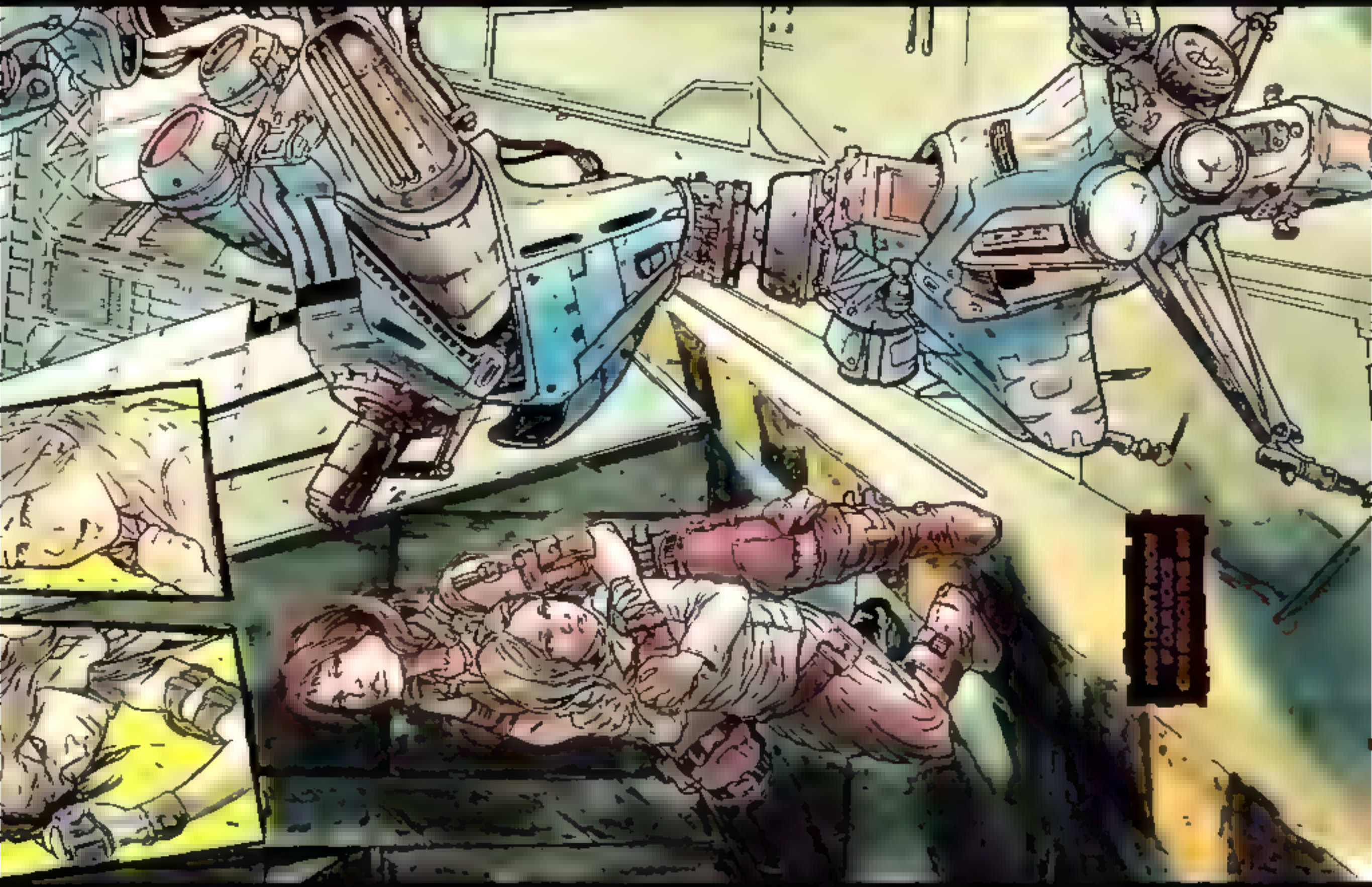




PROJECT SEFIROTH

ANIMA

HERE I AM, ON THE FURTHERMOST EDGE OF THE WORLD


AN ENORMOUS
EXPLOSION
DEMOLISHING
A PALACE

WE BELIEVED
WE HAD DISCOVERED
ETERNAL LIFE

DESERTING EVERYTHING
THAT MADE US HUMAN

I SINK
IN THE WET GROUND;
UNDER MY FEET

THE EARTH QUAKES AND
I LISTEN TO ITS ECHO

AND MY RAGE WILL OVERCOME YOU AND YOU WILL BE LIKE A BLADE OF GRASS IN THE BED OF A TORRENT

YOUR ONLY FAULT WILL BE TO DIE NOW ON THIS SILL

RATA-TA-TA-TA-TA!!!

WITHOUT A WORD...

WITHOUT A SOUND...

BECAUSE THE GROUND WILL FILL YOUR MOUTH.

WHO I AM OR WHAT I WAS ISN'T IMPORTANT

AROUND ME JUST THE BREATH OF

IT RAISES MY ASHES WITH NOISES OF RUIN.

THE END

ARTFLAG GALLERY

MICHAEL C. HAYES

If you had told me I would end up painting for a living when I was 17, I would have assumed you meant houses or cars. The idea of creating a representational image out of pigments suspended in linseed oil was so far removed from what I thought I was meant to do in life.

Most other artists I know tell stories of ceaselessly drawing as children and never stopping. Drawing was something I was dragged into against my will. Once I stopped grumbling about it and tried to make the best of the situation, I discovered an unrealized passion. It is funny how a seemingly insignificant high school elective can change your life for the better.

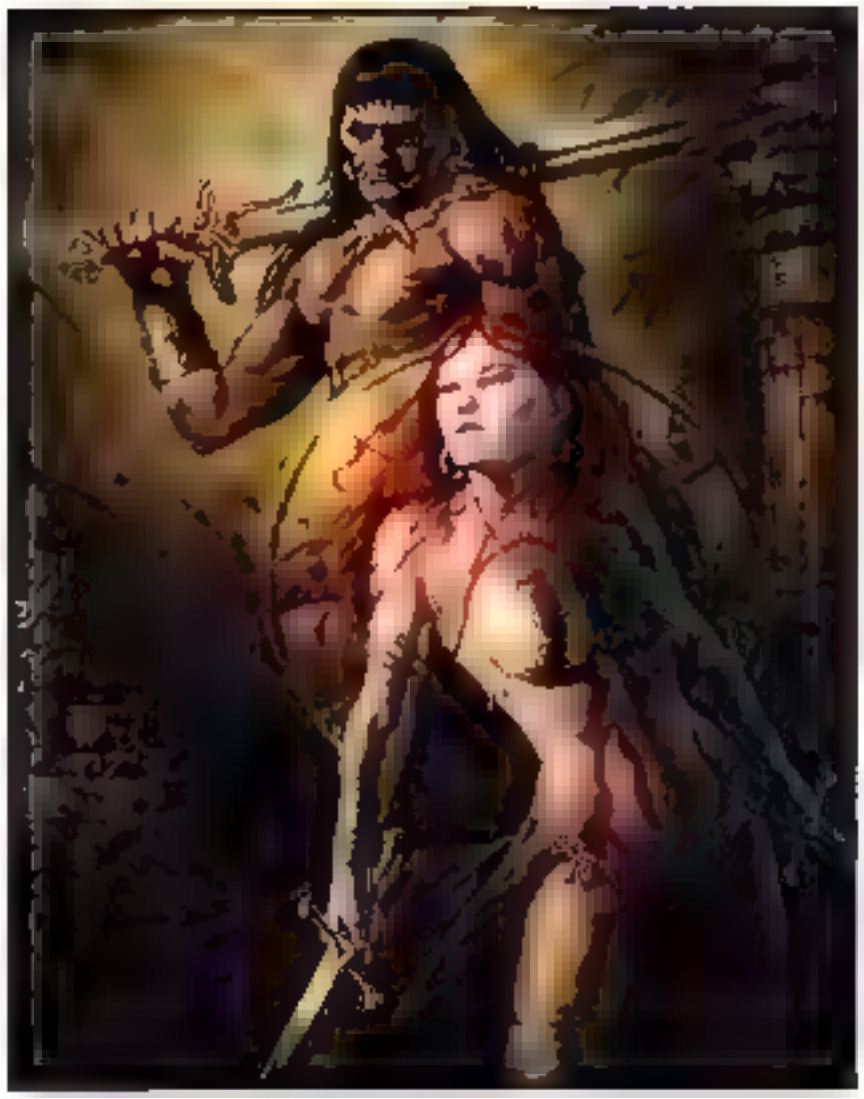
At that point in my life I was set on making the big bucks in the glamorous field of software engineering, so when I learned in order to graduate I had to take an art elective instead of a programming course, I was not happy. I chose animation as the elective; over the course of that semester, I found that I enjoyed drawing. I was also introduced to a few 3D animation programs, for which I developed an affinity. I eventually decided that animation would be a lot more fun than writing code.

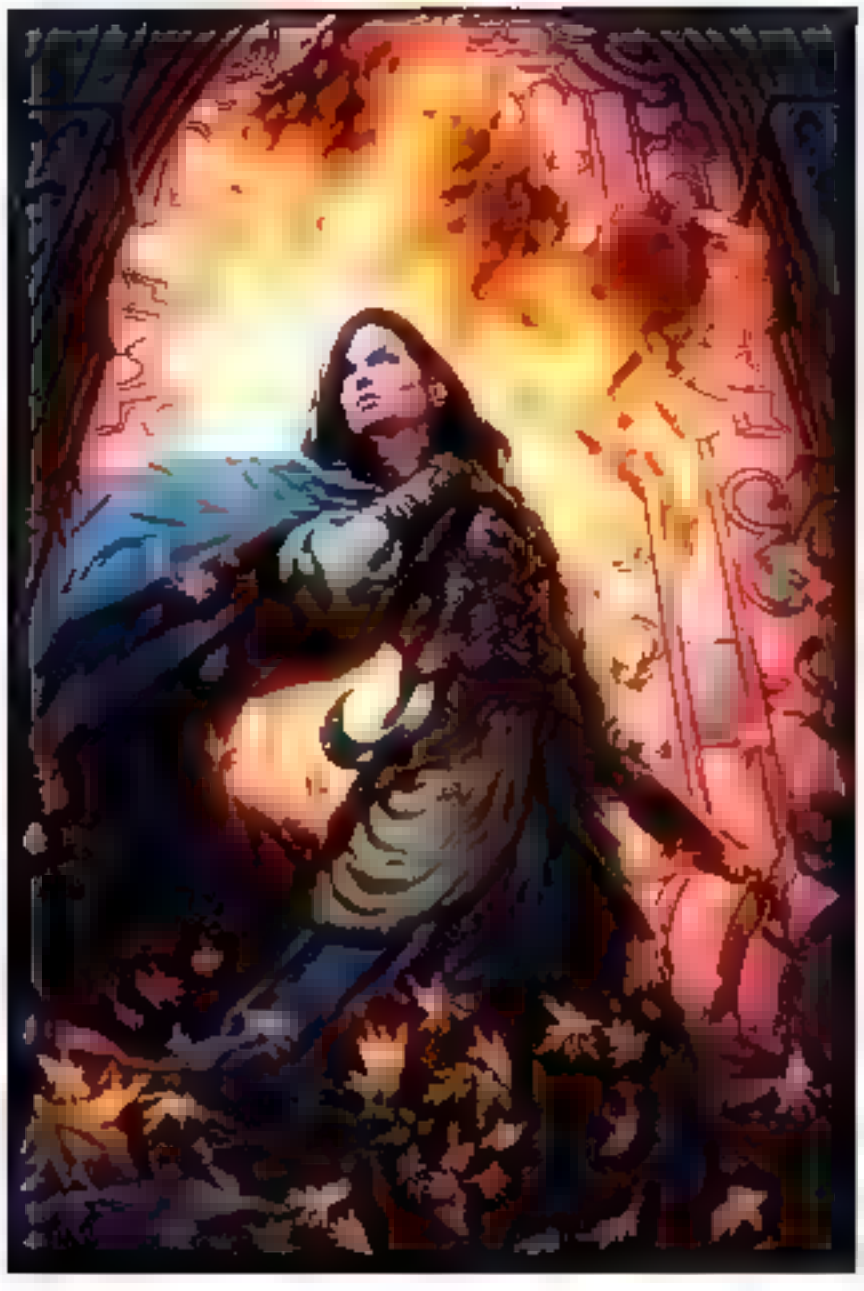
In the five years that followed, I studied at a local community college and later at Cogswell Polytechnical College, earning a degree with honors in Digital Arts and Animation. Throughout the years it became evermore apparent that 3D animation was not quite what I wanted to devote my career to. I was slowly spending more and more time and effort on my traditional drawing, painting, and sculpting courses and less time building wire frames on the computer. By the time I was ready to graduate my goals had once again changed. All the years of required art courses and a few influential and supportive professors had made their mark: I was undeniably hooked.

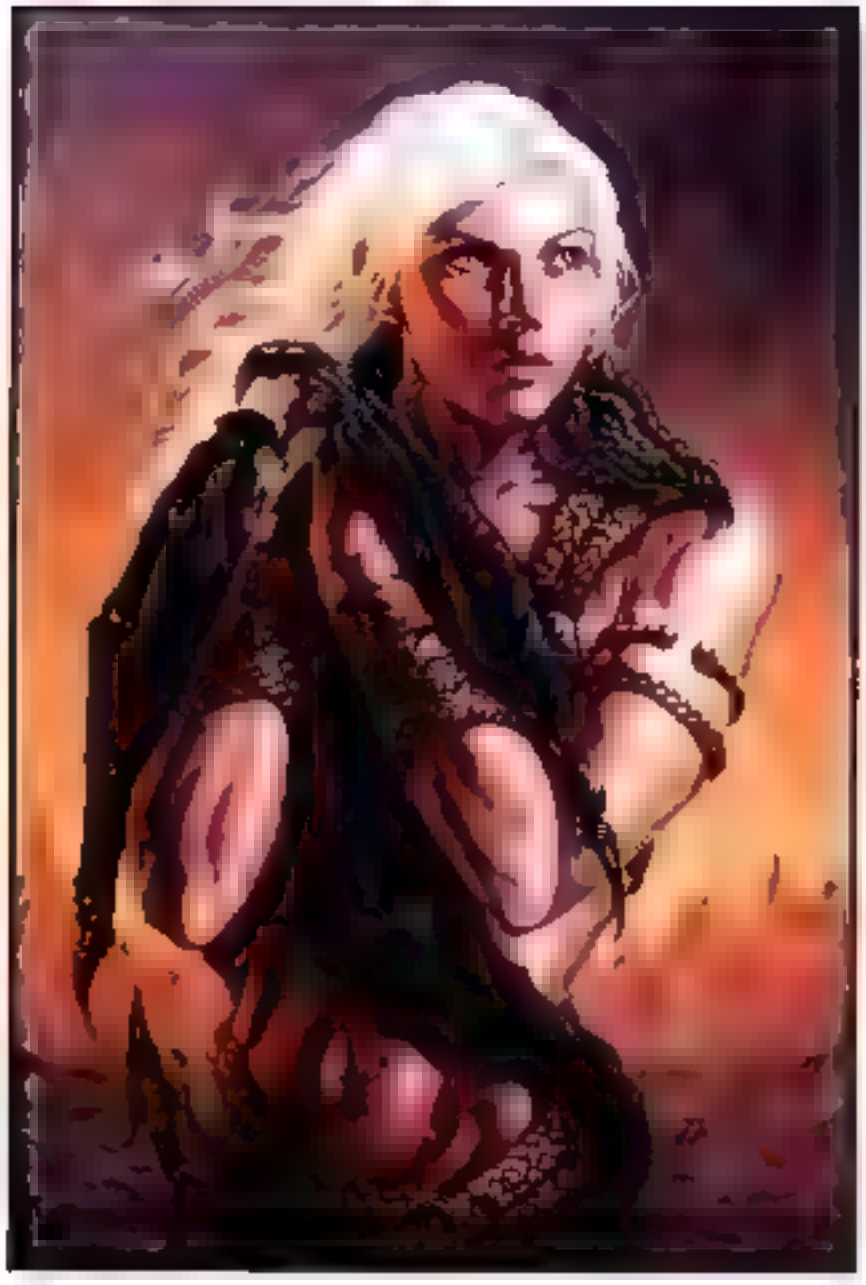
I moved back to San Diego after graduating in 2005 and enrolled at Watts Atelier of the Arts. Free from the constraints of term papers and physics tests, and in a wonderful artistic environment, I began spending almost every waking moment I could spare on a drawing board or in front of an easel. I have been here for two years learning and honing traditional artistic skills, building a body of work, and pursuing a career in freelance illustration, and I hope to do so for the rest of my life.

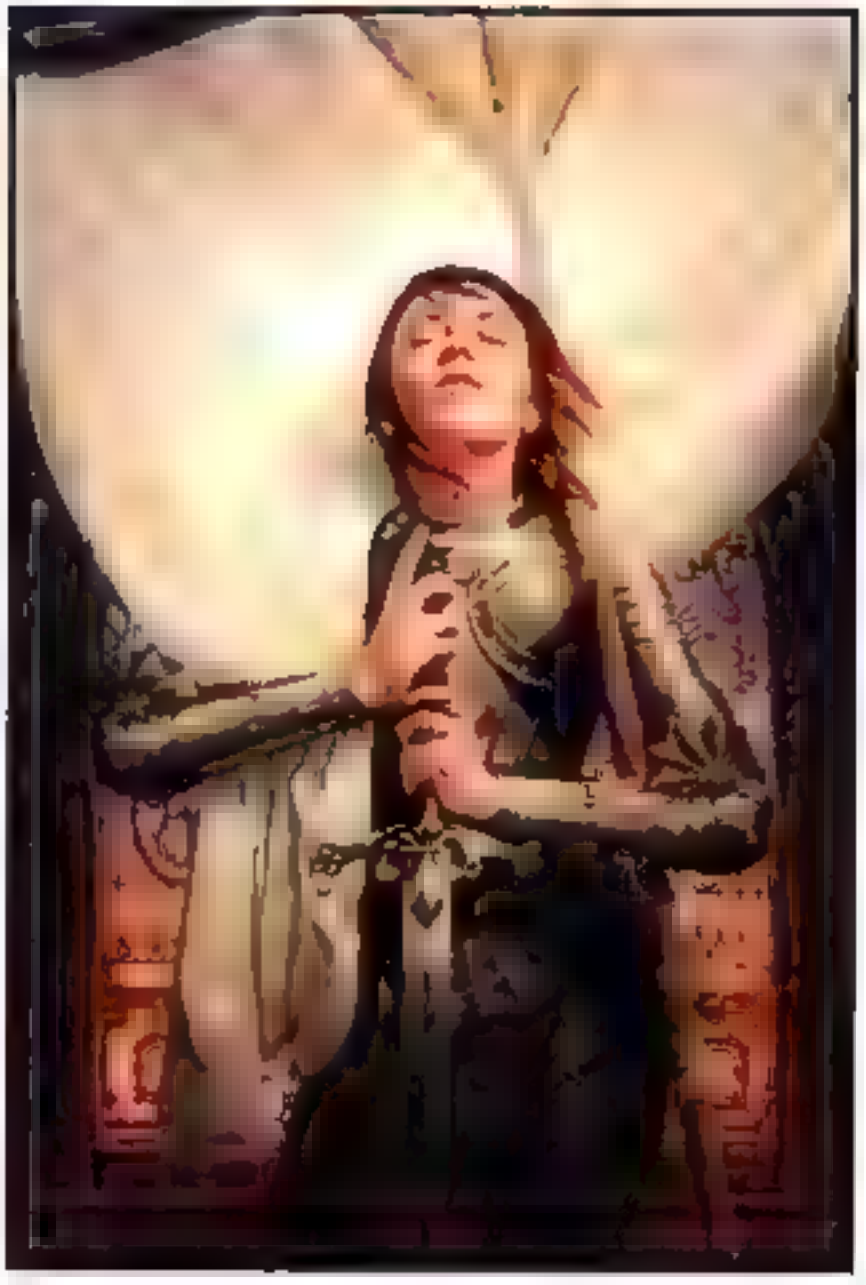
- Mike

www.artofmike.com









~FIN!~

BEGINNING AND ENDING PART ONE

BY MEMO DIAZ

THE ARCHAIC PERIOD JAPAN
A SELDOM USED PATH ALONG THE SEKIGAHARA MOUNTAINS
WHY MUST NATURE DIE AND BE REBORN?
A GOOD QUESTION, LITTLE ONE LIFE IS A CIRCLE UNBROKEN FROM BEGINNING TO END
...AND MY FAMILY?
AH LITTLE ONE THAT IS A HARD QUESTION TO ANS...
WHAT IS IT?
SILENCE LITTLE ONE. THERE IS TROUBLE UP AHEAD

YOU HAVE NO NEED TO RAISE THAT WEAPON AGAINST US
OH ? AND WHO ARE YOU TO TELL THE CAPTAIN OF THE-

IS IT YOU EXALTED ONE?

BE AT PEACE, WARRIOR.
I AM CAPTAIN JIMMU MATSUDA. YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT, SIRE

LATER THAT EVENING

ALL IS SAFE, SIRE. NO ONE FOLLOWED US

THAT IS MOST FORTUNATE. A MOMENT OF REST THEN.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU AND YOUR MEN?

WE HAD RECEIVED NEWS THAT THE SHRINE IN SHIM ZU WAS IN FLAMES AND THE VILLAGERS WERE BEING SLAUGHTERED MERCILESSLY

WE RODE OUT TO MEET THE ENEMY AND WERE AMBUSHED

WHAT OF THE CHILD? WHO IS SHE?

"WELL, MY FRIEND, OUR STORIES ARE INTERTWINED. I FOUND HER AT THE SHIMIZU PROVINCE

THE TEMPLE WAS ALREADY DESTROYED AND THE ENTIRE VILLAGE WAS BURNED

ALL WERE DEAD INCLUDING HER FAMILY."

"SHE IS THE LONE SURVIVOR OF THE SHIMIZU CLAN AND RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE MINAMOTO DYNASTY."

"THE POOR CHILD. WHO IS THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CRIME?"

I THINK WE BOTH KNOW WHO COMMANDS SO GREAT AN ARMY AS TO DESTROY WHOLE PROVINCES.

ONE SO EVIL AS TO KILL WITHOUT MERCY AND AMBUSH A GROUP OF DISCIPLINED WARRIORS

I GO TO CONFRONT HIM.

PLEASE, SIRE?! THAT IS SUICIDE. OUR FORCES DWINDLE AS HIS POWER GROWS!

WE MUST FIND ALLIES BEFORE AN ATTACK CAN BE PUT INTO MOTION

" A VALID POINT. BUT THE JOURNEY HAS ALREADY BEGUN "

"HE WAITS FOR US "

" .FOR ME TO COME TO HIM.

"LORD GORODA."

" WE WERE RIDING OUT FROM MAIZURU HAVING QUELLED AN ATTACK BY GORODA'S MEN "

" WORD HAD COME TO US THAT THE SHIM ZU TEMPLE WAS UNDER SIEGE "

" TO MY RIGHT "

" MY BEST FRIEND SINCE CHILDHOOD AND A MASTER ARCHER KAZUO "

" TO MY LEFT "

" MY OLDEST BROTHER AND A MASTER OF THE BOW AS WELL SEIJI "

" WE WERE IN FULL STRIDE

...WHEN THE ARROWS FELL."

KAZUO AND MY OTHER MEN DIED IN THE AMBUSH. MY BROTHER FELL PROTECTING ME

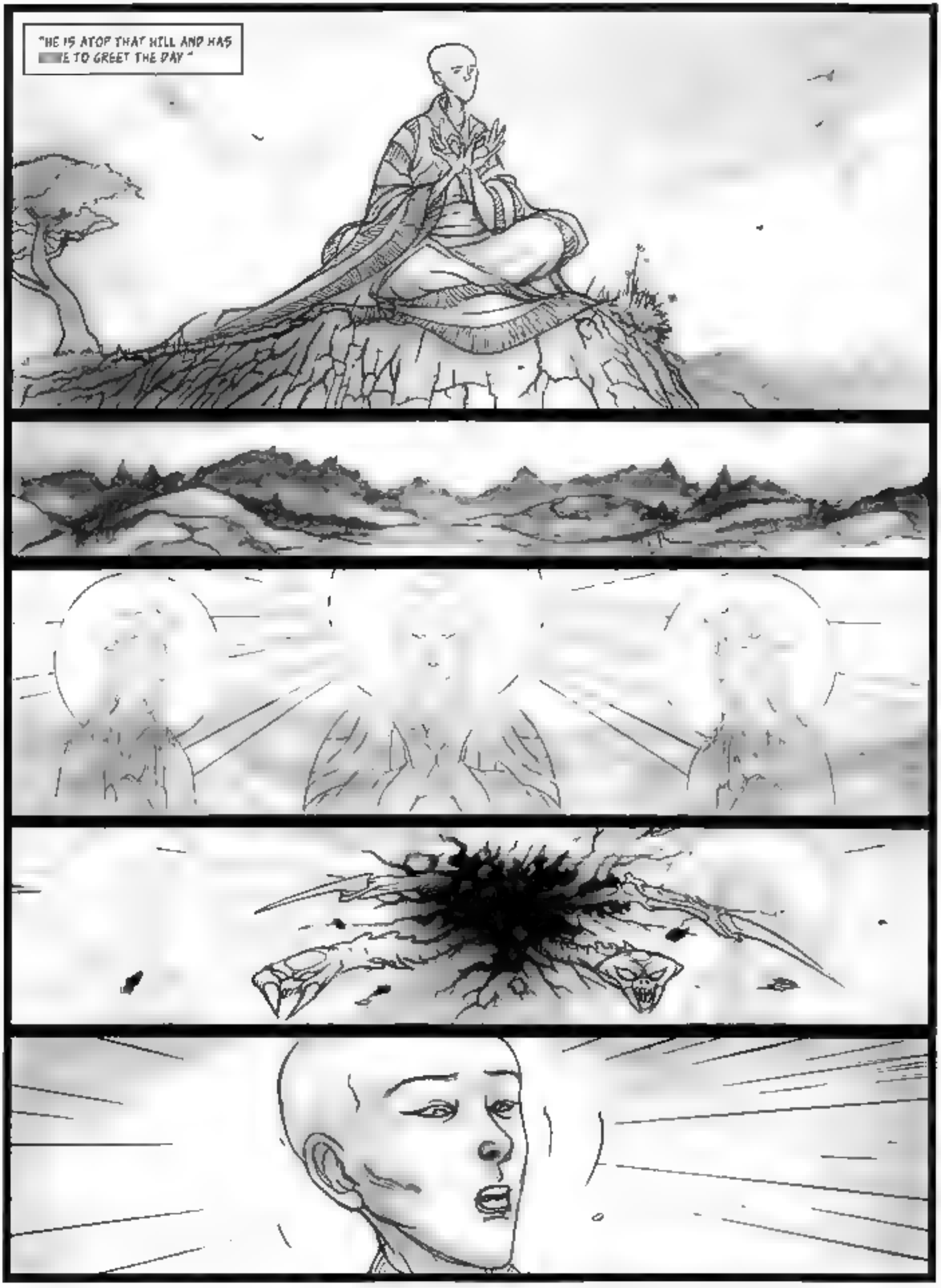
IN A SINGLE MOMENT MY TWO LIFELONG FRIENDS WERE TAKEN FROM ME

I AM THE ONLY SURVIVOR

LIKE ME

YES, LITTLE ONE BUT WE WILL PROTECT YOU FROM ANY EVIL AND HARM.

AND MY FRIEND?


"HE IS ATOP THAT HILL AND HAS
E TO GREET THE DAY"

INTERRUPTING YOUR MORNING PRAYER? BLASPHEMOUS.

AS YOU CAN SEE MY POWER HAS GROWN CONSIDERAB-Y...

...PERHAPS, GREATER THAN YOURS.

I SEE THAT THE DEMON HAS CORRUPTED YOU. YOUR SOUL IS ALMOST LOST TO IT, ***BROTHER***

NEVER CALL ME THAT! I AM IN CONTROL! THIS IS WHAT TRUE POWER MEANS!!!

STOP!!!

AAAA

GORODA'S CASTLE LAIR

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG MY LIEGE? WE HEARD A SCREAM AND

ASSEMBLE YOUR MEN AND PREPARE TO RIDE OUT BY NIGHTFALL.

MASTER WE HEARD A LOUD NOISE AND SAW A BURST OF LIGHT. IS

IT WAS GORODA I FOUGHT HIM OFF BUT HE WILL BE COMING FOR US WE MUST FIND A PLACE TO HIDE FOR THE NIGHT

A SECLUDED COTTAGE OUTSIDE OF HAEA

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT HELP, FATHER?

AH DAUGHTER ALLOW ME TO SERVE OUR GUEST

WHAT TROUBLED TIMES, EH BLESSED ONE? HAS IT COME TO THIS?

I HAVE SEEN MANY BANDITS AND CLANS CAUSE STRIFE. BUT GORODA.. EVEN HIS TYRANNY GOES BEYOND HUMAN TENDENCIES

YOU AND YOUR COMPANION ARE WELCOME TO STAY MY DAUGHTER IS DELIGHTED BY THE CHILD ..BUT WHAT OF THE SOLDIER?

THANK YOU, MY FRIEND I ONLY WISH WE COULD STAY LONGER THAN A NIGHT

BUT YES, LORD GORODA'S ARMY SEARCHES FOR US AS WE SPEAK AND I WILL HAVE NO HARM COME TO YOUR HOME TODAY OR ANY OTHER DAY

"GORODA HAS MUCH TO ANSWER FOR THIS IS TRUE WE ALL HAVE SUFFERED AT HIS HANDS INCLUDING THE LITTLE ONE WE TRAVEL WITH. AND ON THAT DAY HIS ACTIONS WILL BE JUDGED"

"AS TO JIMMU .HE IS NO ORDINARY SOLDIER HE IS A GUARDIAN OF THE LORD OF LIGHT AND AS I AM HIS VASSAL TO THE ENLIGHTENED ONE SO IS HE TOO"

"JIMMU IS SWORN TO PROTECT ALL WHO ARE IN PERIL FROM EVIL."

BUT WHERE IS HE THEN?
"AND WHY DID HE LEAVE HIS ARMOR?"

AIM FOR THE BALD ONE FIRST AND THEN THE CHILD

AND WE WILL FINISH THE REST

YES MISTRESS

SWIIIIK!
SWIIIIK!
WHO?
HELLO, LADY SAYURI
IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME,
HAS IT NOT? I STILL SEE YOU SERVE
LORD GORODA'S WICKED PURPOSES
NOW PLEASE FORFEIT YOUR
WEAPONS AND SURRENDER

JIMMU! YOU FOOLISH--

STAY YOUR HAND! THIS IS MY BROTHER SEIJI'S BOW AND IT'S RARELY MISSED ITS TARGET!

AND WHERE IS SEIJI YOU COWARD?

HE IS DEAD KILLED ALONG WITH KAZUO

SE JI KAZUO.

I SUBMIT TO DEFEAT NAME YOUR TERMS

FIRST, YOUR HUNTING PARTIES' HORSES ARE TO BE FORFEITED TO ME

SECOND, YOU MAY KEEP YOUR FATHER'S SWORD AND YOUR STEED

THIRD

" MEET ME TONIGHT AT THE ABANDONED SHRINE ON FROG BACK HILL "

LATER THAT EVENING AT THE COTTAGE

!!!

GO BACK TO SLEEP LITTLE ONE

B-BUT WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

"TO TRY AND SAVE AN OLD FRIEND, LITTLE ONE."

THE HORSE TRACKS LEAD BACK HERE. WAS I RIGHT TO TRUST HER?

HELLO JIMMU. WEARING YOUR ARMOR THIS TIME?

BLAME IT ON THESE TREACHEROUS TIMES ONE CAN NEVER ANTICIPATE AN ARROW IN THE BACK

YOU KNOW WHEN MY WORD IS GIVEN IT IS HONOR BOUND BY OUR CLAN'S LAW OUT OF RESPECT FOR OUR DEPARTED FRIENDS I HAVE UPHELD THE TERMS YOU NAME

THE LAW, EH? AND WHAT WOULD OUR OLD TEACHER SAY TO SEE YOU NOW?

THE TEACHER WHO GAVE US THESE SCARS AS A LESSON FOR BEING DISOBEDIENT STUDENTS?

"SAYURI THE COURSE YOU ARE ON NO GOOD WILL COME OF IT IT WILL NOT BRING BACK YOUR FATHER OR YOUR FAMILY PLEASE. COME BACK WITH ME AND HELP PROTECT THE HOLY ONE FROM GORODA "

JIMMU IF LIFE WAS ONLY AS SIMPLE AS IT IS IN YOUR HEAD

I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE IN MY FATHER'S NAME AND AGAINST THOSE WHO BETRAYED HIM

EVEN IF IT MEANS THAT I ALLY MYSELF WITH THE ENEMY EVEN IF IT MEANS TO PUT AN ARROW IN A HOLY MAN AND A CHILD

I WILL PUT MY BLADE IN LORD GORODA'S HEART AND IF YOU STAND IN MY WAY DO NOT EXPECT ME TO MEET UNDER THESE TERMS AGAIN

THE GIRL YOU KNEW AND LOVED AS A CHILD IS NO MORE

KRIK!

SAYURI!!!

GOODBYE JIMMU

TO BE CONTINUED ...

THE NATURE OF ALL THINGS

HOMERO RIOS STORY
MARK LORENZANA ARTWORK
ZOAR HUERTA COLOR
RENATO GUERRA LETTERING

MY NAME IS DRAWN, THE CITIZENS' CANDIDATE. I'M READY TO ATTEND THE MYSTERY OF THE ELDERS—

OPEN THE DOORS!

HEH HEHE.

THE NEW CANDIDATE.

ADMIT HIM.

I'LL DO IT!

OF COURSE! --

HE ARRIVES JUST IN TIME.

DOES ANYONE REMEMBER THE *NAME* OF THOSE WHO GOVERN US?

THE *ELDERS*, MASTER MENELIK.

YOU ANSWERED CORRECTLY MY CHILD.

THE ELDERS ARE THOSE IN *HIGH AUTHORITY* THEY'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING ALL OF THE DECISIONS FOR OUR DAILY LIVES.

THEIR WORD IS *INDISPUTABLE* AND IT'S THANKS TO THEM THAT WE HAVE ALL PROSPERED.

DURING THE SECOND MIDDLE AGE, THE WORLD HAD A SYSTEM CALLED *DEMOCRACY*.

IN THIS ARCHAIC GOVERNMENT EVERY INDIVIDUAL STRUGGLED TO PROTECT THEIR PERSONAL BELIEFS OVER THOSE OF THE MAJORITY

THIS CAUSED THE FRAGMENTATION OF SOCIETY INTO VERY DISTINCT SOCIO-POLITICAL DOCTRINES *THAT ENDED IN WAR.*

IT WAS THEN THAT THEY PUT THE *TECHNOCRATS* INTO POWER. THEY WERE A GROUP DESIGNED TO RESTORE WHAT THE MASSES AT THAT TIME HAD DESTROYED.

TIME PASSED. AND THE TECHNOCRATS EVOLVED INTO WHAT WE NOW KNOW AS *THE ELDERS*. THE PUREST AND HOLIEST OF THE CASTES, GOVERNING ALL PEOPLE

BUT MASTER MENELIK—

WHAT IS A *CANDIDATE?*

READING THE NEXT LESSONS AHEAD OF TIME, *DRWN?*

MANY PHILOSOPHERS BELIEVED THAT THE ELDERS' EVOLUTION IN *ISOLATION* HAD MADE THEM—

LESS AND LESS AWARE OF THE CITIZENS' SITUATION.

A CANDIDATE IS A DRAGON CHOSEN BY THE ELDERS FOR THEIR SKILL, INTELLECT AND STRENGTH, TO SERVE ON THE RULING COUNCIL.

THIS WAS THE ACTUAL SUGGESTED BY THE ELDERS.

IRONICALLY, CANDIDATE IS FORBIDDEN TO ENTER THE TEMPLE OF THE ELDERS FOR ANY PURPOSE.

NO ONE KNOWS, IT'S A MYSTERY.

IF THE CANDIDATE CAN ANSWER CORRECTLY...

HE WILL BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL.

THEY WILL BE HELD FOREVER WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE TEMPLE OF THE ELDERS!

SO THEY CAN'T DISCLOSE THE NATURE OF THE MYSTERY!

BE WELCOMED, CITIZEN. WE WERE WAITING FOR YOU.

AND DO YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN DO THAT, DRWN, SON OF AXL?

MY NAME IS DRWN, SON OF AXL, FROM THE HOUSE OF HAMMER--

I'M HERE TO SOLVE YOUR MYSTERY

YES!

YOU PRESUME CHILD. YOU PRESUME AND NOTHING ELSE.

HOW COULD MAN GIVE US AN ANSWER IF WE DID HAVE A MYSTERY TO ASK? MAN IS LIMITED AND WEAK--

WITHOUT OUR ASSISTANCE, MAN'S MERE EXISTENCE WOULD CONVERGE INTO CHAOS, NOT ORDER.

I-- I DON'T *UNDERSTAND*, ELDER

YOU STUPID CANDIDATE! *THERE'S NO MYSTERY!!*

JUST AN INDISPUTABLE TRUTH: *WE ARE THE RULERS*, AND YOU--

YOU ARE OUR FOOD!!

AUTOMATIC ACTIVATION FOR THE CURRENT SYSTEM...

UH-UH?

LOADING SES.34.6/NET. 96.99/TEMPLE

INITIATION

GLOBAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM LOADING

WELCOME, GUEST.

??? UM. . . THE USER REQUIRES ASSIST-ANCE.

GREETINGS, USER. I AM ORACLE. HOW MAY I ASSIST YOU?

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS OPERATING SYSTEM?

THROUGH SIMULATED SOLUTIONS BASED UPON THE ACCUMULATED EXPERIENCE IN THE TECHNOCRATIC SERVICE.

ACCESSIBILITY LEVEL AND MARGIN OF ERROR?

LATER.

ACCESSING

MY LORDS— THE PROBATION PERIOD FOR THE CANDIDATE HAS CONCLUDED—

THE PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW WHAT HIS FATE IS.

ORACLE, TRANSCRIBE MY RESPONSE TO THE SPEAKER OF THE CITIZENSHIP.

TRANSMISSION

"GOOD WISHES TO CITIZENS AND THEIR FAMILIES."

"WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE CANDIDATE DRWN HAS *FAILED* TO SOLVE THE TECHNOCRAT *MYSTERY*."

"UNFORTUNATELY THE CITIZENSHIP WAS UNABLE TO OFFER A CANDIDATE *WORTHY* OF OUR EXPECTATIONS."

"HOWEVER, WE WILL WAIT. WE KNOW THE VALUE OF OUR SPECIES, AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT SOMEDAY, THE RIGHT MAN SHALL APPEAR."

TRANSMISSION CONCLUDED.

THE END

DWARF PLANET OP K 99932. OORT CLOUD.
1.5 LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH.

OLAF COME BACK.

WHA...??

THE ETERNITY IS ONLY AN INSTANT

GOD IT CAN'T BE...!

I'M... DEAD!!!

PLEASE GOD! NOOO!

I-I NEED TO SEE HER. I NEED TO SEE HER FOR THE LAST TIME

SOMEHOW THE PHYSICS RULES BECOME IRRELEVANT TO ME. AND I'M ABLE TO MOVE FASTER THAN LIGHT. MUCH FASTER.

SCRIPT: ABRAHAM MARTÍNEZ
ART: MIGUEL A. HERNÁNDEZ
COLOR: EMMANUEL ORDAZ
LETTERS: JAIME

HONEY

SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED... I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW

HOW MUCH I.

AAAAHHH!

WHAT'S THIS?! WHO ARE YOU? ROBOT, HELP ME !

M STRESS? WHAT'S WRONG?

HONEY, FOR GOD'S SAKE, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME.. !

NO! SOMEBODY HELP ME!

OLYMPUS VIRGIN, HELP ME! OH GOD, MY HUSBAND IS NOT DEAD! I'M GOING CRAZY, PLEASE GO AWAY !!

THIS SN'T FAIR, SHE WAS TERRIFIED OF ME!

IF I COULD GO BACK IN T ME I'D FIX IT! BUT I CAN'T!

HOW MUCH TIME WILL I BE A GHOST? AM I REALLY DEAD? GOD! THIS IS SO UNFAIR! WHY ME, GOD?

ANSWER ME!

ÖPIK IS SO FAR! IT'LL TAKE OVER A YEAR BEFORE THEY TELL HER I DIED IN THIS GOD FORSAKEN PLACE! WHY WOULDN'T SHE LISTEN TO ME?

I WAS ALWAYS A GOOD MAN, NEVER HURT ANYONE. I DON'T DESERVE THIS FATE, LORD

I LEAVE THE OORT CLOUD TO LOOK FOR YOU. I'LL GO TO THE ELDER GALAXIES, I WON'T STOP UNTIL I FIGURE OUT WHERE YOU ARE, GOD.

I FIND DYING NEBULAE, GIVING BIRTH TO NEW SOLAR SYSTEMS WHICH LAUGH AT ME AS I FLY IN FRONT OF THEM.

I'M TEMPTED TO FADE AWAY INTO OBLIVION, TO DISAPPEAR FOREVER INSIDE THE MASSIVE BLACK HOLES. BUT I MUST CONTINUE.

I FIND THE OTHER WORLDS YOU HAVE CREATED. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU DID IT IN YOUR OWN IMAGE OR JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE BORED OF MANKIND

MAYBE THEY SING AND PRAY TO YOU. MAYBE YOU DON'T LISTEN TO THEM EITHER. BUT I ASK THEM ABOUT YOUR WHEREABOUTS.

IT TAKES ME MONTHS TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK WITH THE ANCIENT WISE MEN OF THIS WORLD.

THEY ARE UNABLE TO TELL ME WHERE TO FIND YOU. BUT ASK ME TO GIVE YOU THEIR PLEDGES, IF I FINALLY DO.

IN THOUSANDS OF PLANETS, THEIR INHABITANTS TELL ME YOU DON'T EXIST. THEY BELIEVE THE ONLY EXISTENCE IS THE ONE THEY'RE CURRENTLY LIVING. AND THEY ASK ME TO JOIN THEIR ORGIES.

I LAUGH AT THE MANY RACES YOU HAVE CREATED, TO DECEIVE THE SEEKERS OF TRUTH. WHY DO YOU HIDE BEHIND THEIR SIMPLISTIC MATERIALISM?

THERE WERE OTHER WORLDS, DEAD LONG AGO. BUT THE PEACE I CAN FEEL IN THEM TELLS ME ABOUT HOW CLOSE THEY WERE TO FINDING YOU.

AT LAST THEY HAVE LEFT HERE A REAL CLUE FOR THE WAY TO FIND YOU.

THIS IS A VERY OLD STAR SYSTEM. ITS SUN WILL BURST VERY SOON. I'VE COMPLETELY LOST TRACK OF TIME SINCE I BEGAN MY JOURNEY

I'M LOOKING FOR THE UNIVERSE'S CREATOR. DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND HIM?

SOON MY PLANET WILL DIE, AND I'LL MEET HIM. UNFORTUNATELY I'LL BE UNABLE TO RETURN AND TELL YOU WHERE HE IS.

DON'T TRY TO FOOL ME. TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND HIM.

WE BELIEVE THE CREATOR LIVES EVERYWHERE. EVEN INSIDE EVERY CREATURE. BUT THAT'S NOT THE ANSWER YOU WANT TO HEAR, RIGHT?

SOME SCHOLARS BELIEVE THE CREATOR RESIDES INSIDE THE "FIRST MOTOR" WHERE EVERYTHING COMES FROM. THE PRIMEVAL EGG ..

YOUR PEOPLE CALL IT "THE BIG BANG"

BUT YOU KNOW HUMAN... NOBODY IN THE UNIVERSE CAN ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS, BUT YOURSELF. RIGHT?

HE CAN AND HE WILL.

GO, THEN. AND WHEN YOU FIND HIM, TELL HIM WE WILL MEET SOON

BILLIONS OF LIGHTS DIE AROUND ME. AND OTHERS LIGHT UP AS I COME CLOSER TO YOU, AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME, AT THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

YOU WILL ANSWER MY QUESTIONS, LORD. I SWEAR IN YOUR NAME, YOU WILL.

WHAT KIND OF TRICK IS THIS?

GOD!

ANSWER ME IF YOU ARE GOD!

DO YOU BELIEVE I AM? MAYBE I'M JUST THE REPRESENTATION OF WHAT YOU WANT TO FIND. TELL ME. WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

DON'T SPEAK IN RIDDLES! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU SO YOU CAN TELL ME WHY YOU DID THIS TO ME!

I'M NOT GOD AND I CAN'T ANSWER YOU?

STOP MOCKING ME I JUST WANT TO KNOW THE PURPOSE OF THIS TORMENTED EXISTENCE YOU HAVE IMPOSED ON ME!

MAYBE THERE IS NO PURPOSE. MAYBE IT'S UP TO YOU IF IT HAS A PURPOSE OR NOT

THAT'S IT? YOU MAKE ME FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS. EVEN IF I DIDN'T CAUSE IT? THE FINAL ANSWER IS "FREE WILL"?

WHY LORD?

YOU MUST BE VERY TIRED OF YOUR CHILDREN'S CONSTANT COMPLAINTS.

HI, HONEY I JUST WANT TO SAY I LOVE YOU. FORGIVE ME

NO, OLAF FORGIVE ME

SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOU WHEN YOU CAME TO ME YEARS AGO

FORGIVE ME MY LOVE FORGIVE ME FOR THROWING YOU OUT OF MY GARDEN.

IT'S OK, HONEY EVERY TIME I STEPPED ON THE LAWN I WAS RUINING IT I'M PRETTY SURE IF I'D STAYED LONGER, THE ROSES WOULD HAVE WITHERED.

HA HA HA. AH. AAHH. OUCH. I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE TO TAKE ME! I JUST HAVE ONE LAST WISH. I'D LIKE MY ASHES TO BE SPREAD IN THE OLYMPUS' VIRGIN SANCTUARY ON MARS.

YES, HONEY

THANK YOU. NOW I'M TIRED THE PILL IS ACTING.

IT DOESN'T HURT ANYMORE

WAIT FOR ME, MY LOVE WAIT FOR ME IN THE PRAIRIE NEAR THE TEMPLE

AND PICK WHITE FLOWERS FOR ME

NOW THE ETERNITY IS ONLY AN INSTANT TO ME

AND FOR ONLY AN INSTANT I STARE AT THE STARS.

END

POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE AERIAL UNIT OF AZUREK CITY.

I LOVE THIS JOB!!! TO FIGHT THE ROTTEN...

...ME AND MY MEGAROBOT FOR URBAN COMBAT WE'RE INSUPERABLE!!

MEGAROBOT

STORY BY
RITA GORGONI

ART BY
STEFANO CARDOSELLI

TRANSLATIONS
MALENA B MC GRATH

LETTERING
AZUREK STUDIOS

AZUREK STUDIOS

THE LIEJTENANT THINKS I GO DOWN A BIT HEAVY WITH THE BAD GUYS.

YOOOOOOOO

CODE 175!! ALARM

SHIT!!!! TURN DOWN THAT ALARM I CAN'T HEAR MYSELF THINK!!!

OKAY, THAT'S BETTER!! SPECIAL PILOT TRAVIS CONTRERA THERE S A POSSIBLE ROBBERY WITH HOSTAGES AT CENTRAL BANK

JUST THE TYPE OF MISSION I LOVE!!! THANKS LIEJTENANT

TRAVIS YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST WAITED UNTIL THEY OPENED THE DOOR!!!

TOO SLOW!! CRIME CAN'T WAIT!!!!

ZAWWWW

TRAVIS, JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T DESTROY THE CITY!!

BEEP BEEP BEEP

OH!!!! SHIT!!!!!!!!!!!
I'M OUT OF GAS!!

BETTER STOP AND GET SOME THANK GOODNESS I HAVE PLAYER CLUB CREDIT CARD.

I LIKE GETTING MY GAS AT THE GOOD GALLON

GAS STATION

GOOD GALLON

OK. SIR THAT'S FIVE THOUSAND LITRES OF PREMIUM.

?

SAINT ELVIS !

GAS FILL

DONE. SHALL I CLEAN YOUR WINDSHIELD, SIR?

NO THANKS. I'M LATE CRIME MUSTN'T BE KEPT WAITING

.....THE CRIME CAN'T WAIT!!

AH, HERE WE ARE!!!

OKAY COMPUTER GIVE ME AN IDEA OF THE DAMAGES.

2 ROBBERS
85 HOSTAGES KILLED
13 FLOORS DISTROYED
15 MILLION AGON DOLLARS PAID

GRUNG! GRUNG!

HAVE A NICE DAY

358 LAW SUITS BROUGHT AGAINST THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

.....ENEMY ROBOT AT 9 O' CLOCK ....

CRUSH!!!

TRAVIS 4UNS

MONDO ELVIS

ZEAGAL 3000

DON'T WORRY

HELL

BAD FUCKING BASTARD

THE END FOR YOU!!

KAK

....OH.
ONE BIG SHIT!!

WHALE IS SO BIG

ARGHHHHHHHHHH!

WHAT THE?!!

FUCK!!!

ARGHHHHHHH!!!!

CAPT. FISH

YOU FUCKIN' ASSHOLE!

SHUT

DIRTY BASTARD YOU KILLED MY BOYS!

ELVIS

KULO

URGHHH!!!! YOUP!!

ELVIS

SURPRISE!

FIRE!!!!
KILL!!!!
CRUSH!!!!

FUCK ME!!

ARGHHHHHHHHHH!!!!

EAT MY LEAD BICTH!!!!

DIE!!!!
DIE!!!!!
DIE!!!!!!

FAST BURGERS

WHAT THE FUCK!

DIE YOU!!!

YEARGHH!

I LOVE THIS FAST BURGERS!!!

MHH.
MH.
MH.

I HATE MY LIFE!

FUCK
I GIVE UP !!

IT'S NOT THAT EASY!!!
IN CASE YOU DIDN'T
NOTICE.
I DON'T TAKE PRISONERS

.WHAT!!!
AFRAID
OF THE POWER
OF THE LAW??!!!

KILL!!!
KILL!!!
CRUSH!!!!
CRUSH!!!!!

YOU CAN'T
HIDE
FOREVER.....

SHIT!!!!!!

I'LL USE MY
MEGA EXPOSIVE
BULLETS!!

WHERE ARE
YOUPPPPP

MAYBE
BEHIND
THESE
BULDINGS?
DON'T
HIDE FROM
ME

BEEP BEEP

O, SHIT I' M RUNNING OUT OF GAS!

I'D BETTER FILL UP!!!

I 'LL FIND YOU ANYWAY SOONER OR LATER ..

FUCK YOU AND YOUR MEGAROBOT!!

ONCE AGAIN THE CITY IS SAFE!!

the end for now!

The Axe

story & art: Alberto Casadio
word editing: Nicola David Sebastian

I HEARD GRIM SONGS ABOUT THIS TEMPLE, JENGEFUL GHOSTS SCREAMING DEATH

ULFRIC, THOSE SONGS WERE MEANT FOR COWARDS. IS YOUR AXE TREMBLING, BROTHER?

NO ONE'S EVER COME OUT FROM HERE ALIVE

IF NO ONE EVER CAME BACK, THEN WHAT ARE THE BARDS SINGING ABOUT?

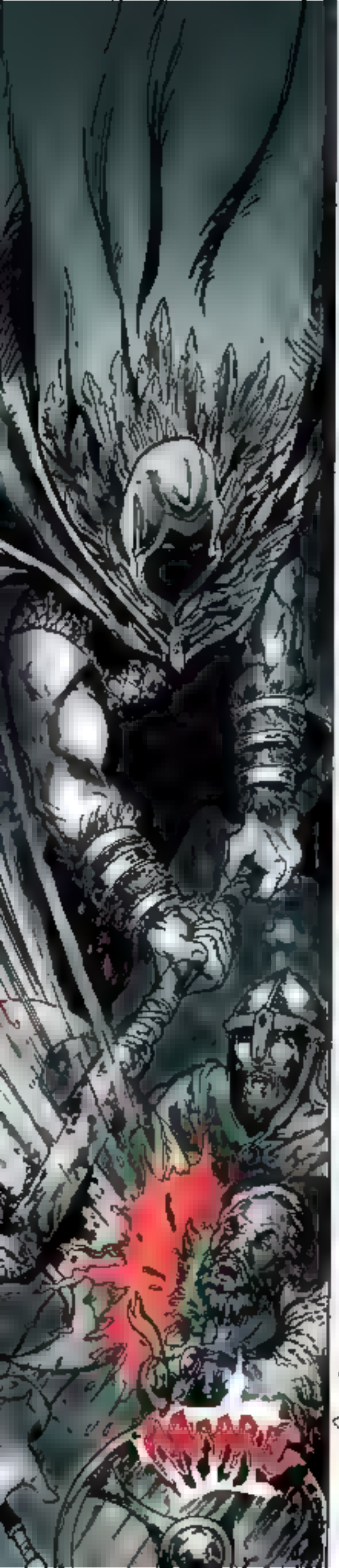
I'M JUST SAYING WE SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT MORE MEN.

YOU'RE SPITTING ON THE GOD'S FORTUNE, BROTHER. YOUR FEAR IS...

DISGUSTING.

RUN AWAY, BROTHER, GO CALL AN ARMY AND SHARE YOUR SHAME WITH IT. KING OLAF PROMISED ME WEALTH AND I DO NOT INTEND TO SHARE ANYTH—

CROAK



PP-PLEASE. D-D-DON'T K-K-KILL...

TODAY YOU'LL CARRY BACK TO YOUR LANDS TWO TREASURES. THE SECOND ONE IS THE LEGEND OF THIS TEMPLE...

SO AND TELL OF HONOR AND TREASURE, CHARM THE BARDS AND WARRIORS... LEAD THEM HERE TO SEARCH FOR GLORY.

NOW RUN!

RUN AND SPREAD THE LEGEND, OR MY SHADOW WILL HUNT YOU, EVEN IN YOUR BRIGHTEST DREAMS... FOR ETERNITY...

WARRIOR, YOU ARE JUST AN EMPTY AXE, WIELDED BY A MAD KING SEARCHING FOR GLORY.

THERE IS NO GLORY IN THIS WORLD.

ONLY BLOOD.

MY AXE TRAVERSED THE WARS, SEARCHING FOR HONOR, FROM SHORE TO SHORE, I KILLED IN THE NAME OF MY KING.

WHEN MY LAST ENEMY FELL, THIS AXE TOOK THE THRONE. I BECAME THE KING OF KINGS.

BUT THERE WAS NO GLORY ALONG THE ROAD OF MORTALS...

SO I BECAME THE GODS' AXE.

MY NAME ECHOED MAYHEM ACROSS THE GATES OF DEATH.

RAISING THE SONG OF A THOUSAND STORMS, I FORCED GIANTS TO KNEEL.

I SHINED IN FOOL'S GLORY...

I WAS BUT AN AXE...

AN EMPTY AXE.

WHAT IS THE NAME OF A FORGOTTEN AXE?

WHAT DO YOU BECOME WHEN GLORY DROPS OVER YOUR EDGE...

AND THE HONOR YOU CONQUERED RUSTS ON YOUR BLADE?

WHAT ARE YOU WITHOUT THE ARM BRANDISHING YOU?

A MEMORY THAT GODS AND KINGS HIDE...

...IN DUST.

I CANNOT CURSE GODS AND KINGS.

IT'S ONLY BECAUSE OF THEIR ... HONORLESS BATTLES...

...THAT THIS AXE HAS FINALLY FOUND A SHEATH WHERE TO REST.

THE SWEETEST TRIUMPH THIS AXE HAS EVER WON...

THE BISEAGE SNATCHED HER FROM MY HANDS.

DRUIDS CALL IT "PHTHISIS," THE VAMPIRE'S KISS...

THEY TAUGHT ME HOW TO CURE HER...

..ONLY TO HAVE HER ONE MORE DAY.

THIS IS MY ENDLESS BATTTLE.

LET THE BARDS SING THE LEGEND OF THE TEMPLE. SEND ME NEW HEROES SEEKING TO MAKE THEIR NAME.

THEIR AMBITION WILL BRING ME THEIR HEADS.

ONE HEAD, ONE MORE DAY WITH HER.

I WILL FIGHT FOR THAT DAY.

I AM OUR AXE, THE BLADE OF OUR ETERNAL...

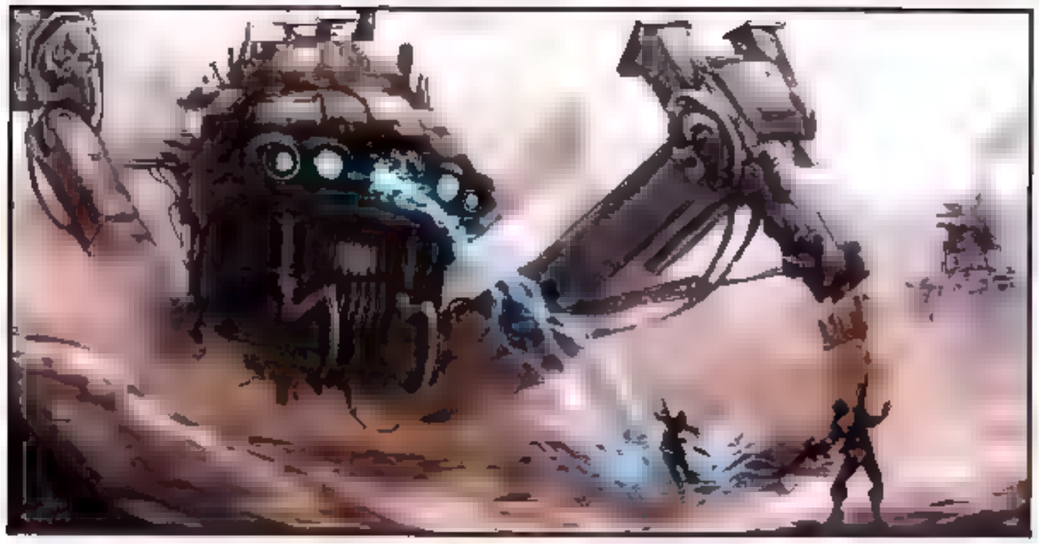
...LOVE.

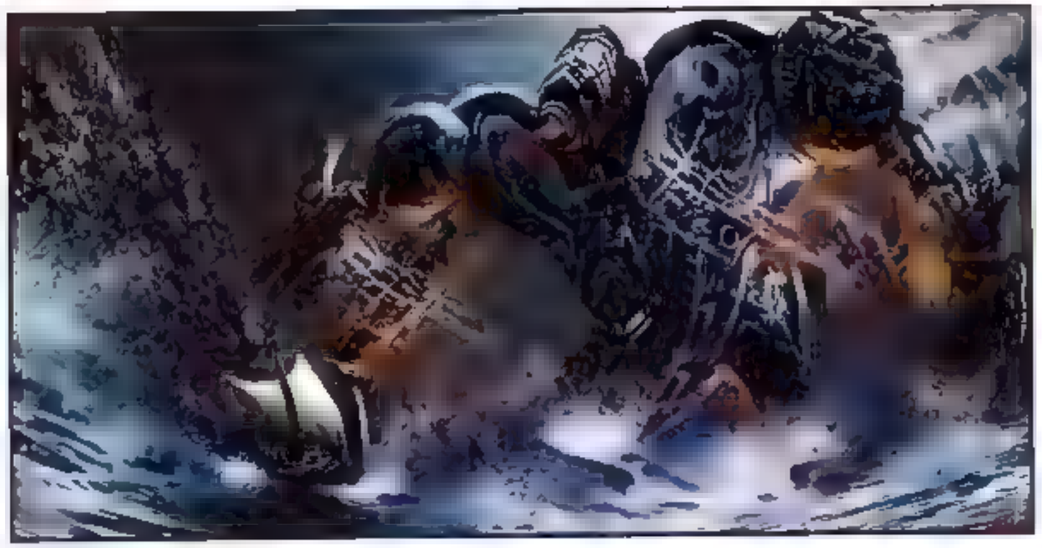
Artist's Studio

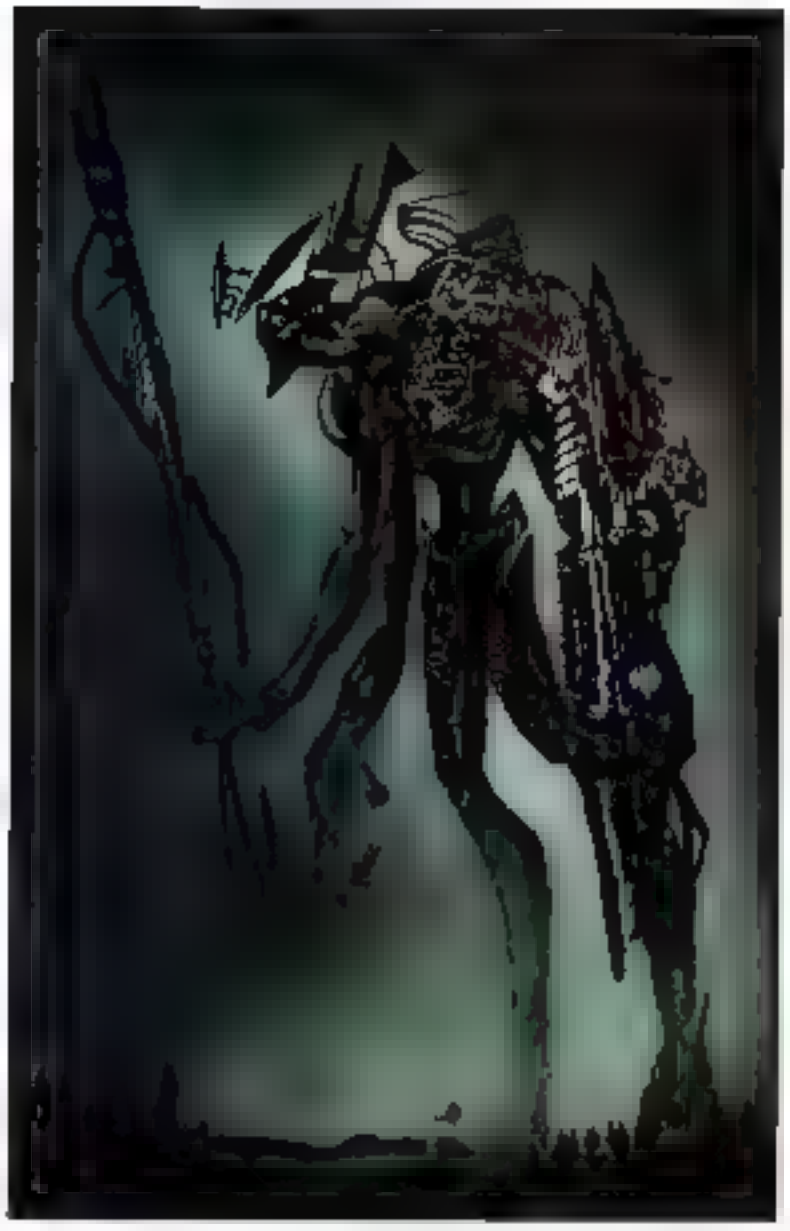
Rafael Rivera (A.K.A. DARAF) has been creating art since he was able to hold a pencil. Born April 23, 1973 in Brooklyn, NY, he also began to study boxing at age 7, eventually winning five Golden Gloves and two National titles, stopping all opposition 49 to 0, with 36 first round knock outs before hanging up his gloves to focus on art. For the last 15 years, his versatility as an artist has allowed him to work on a variety of graphic and fine art projects as well as concept art for film and video games. Rafael is also a professional Tattooist. His many art styles come as a result of being influenced by everything from graffiti, to Anime, to Comics and sci-fi and Horror movies. Rafael's favorite book is the Bible.

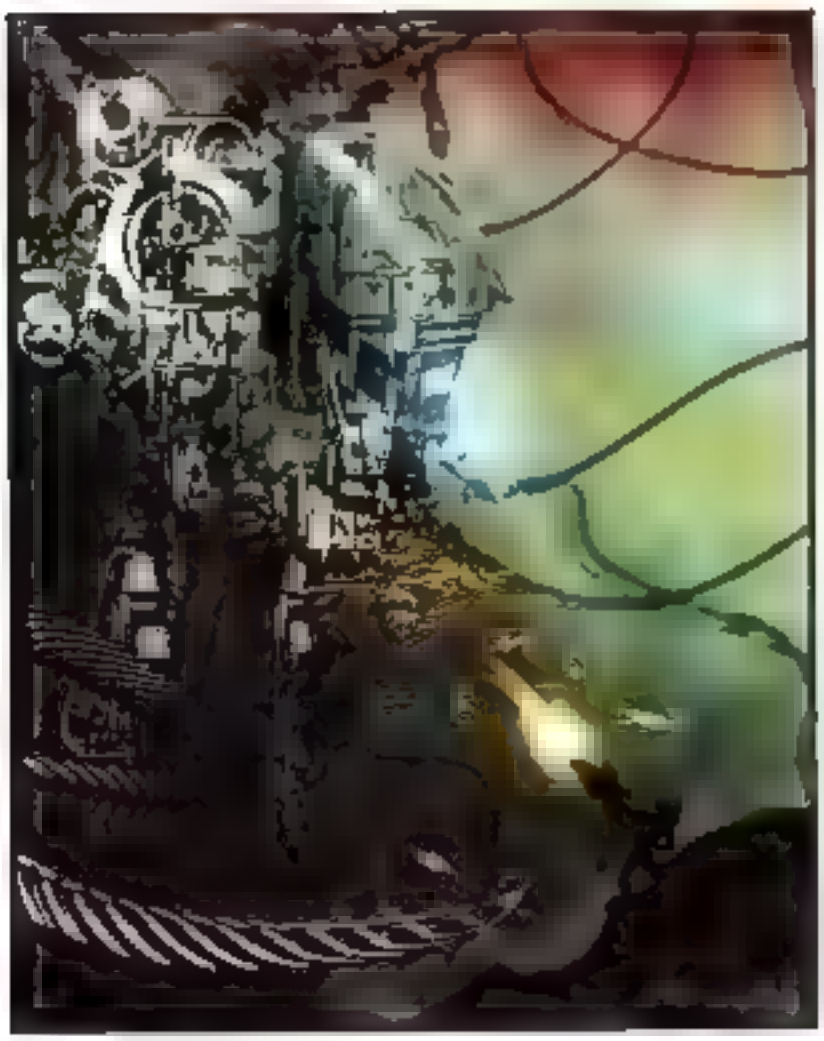
woundedlamb.com

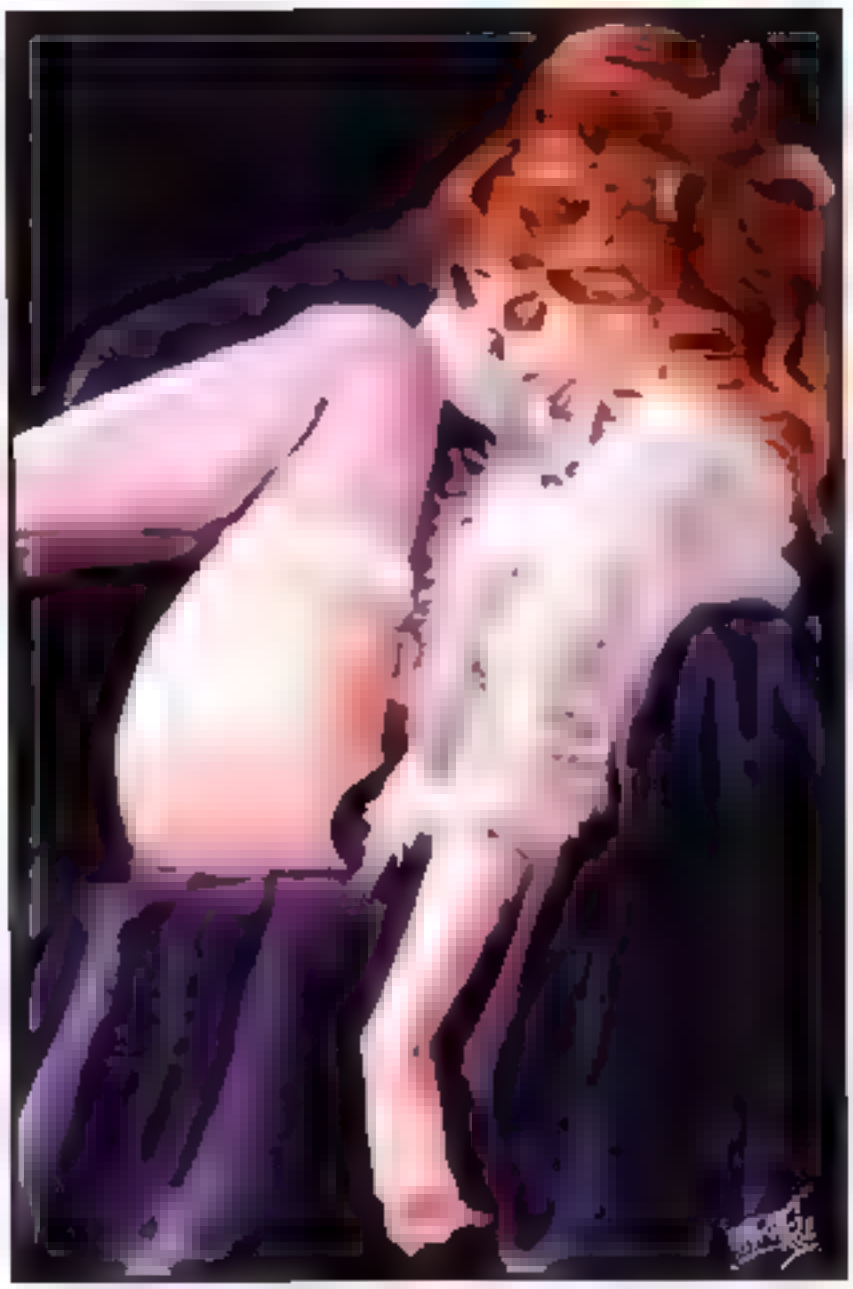
Rafael Rivera





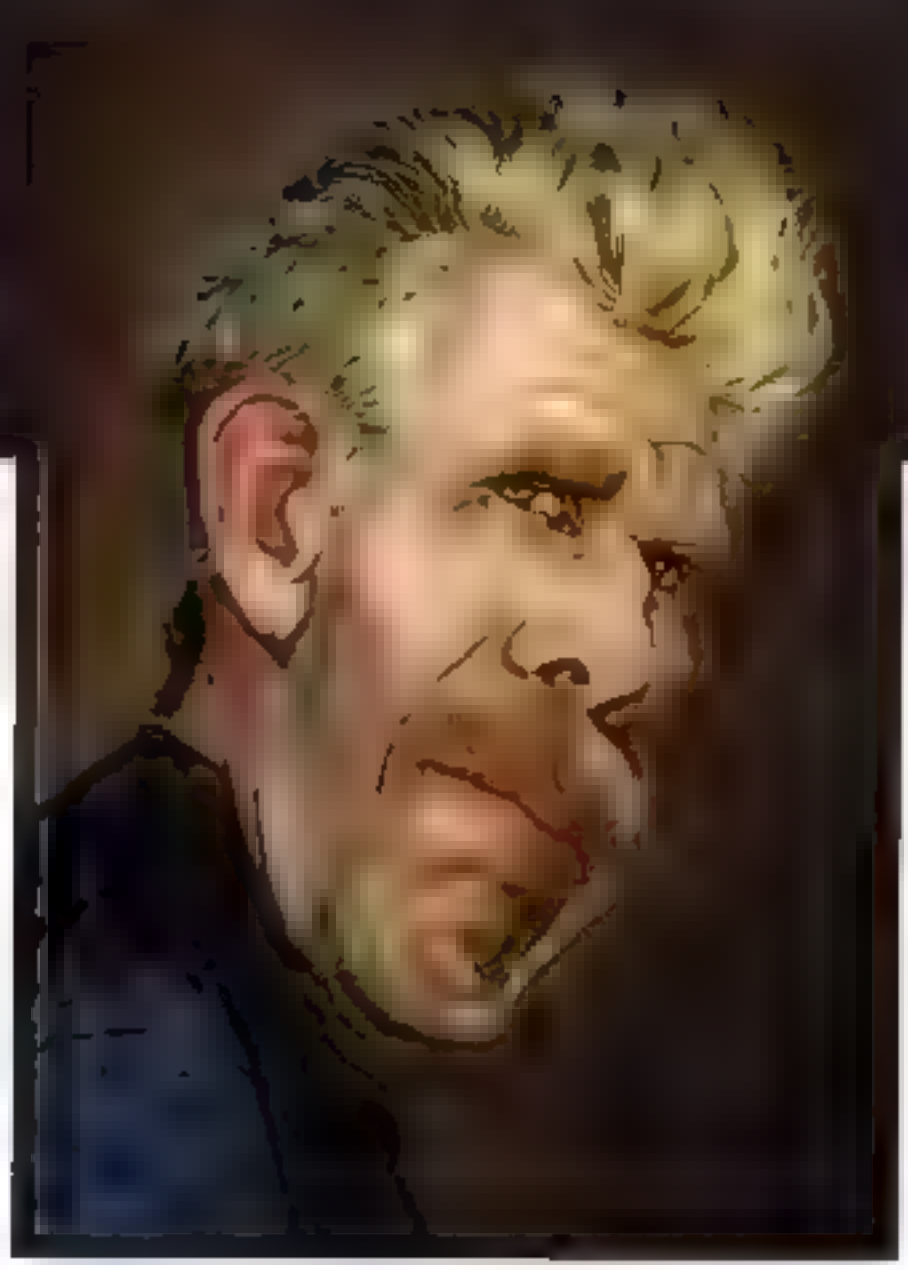


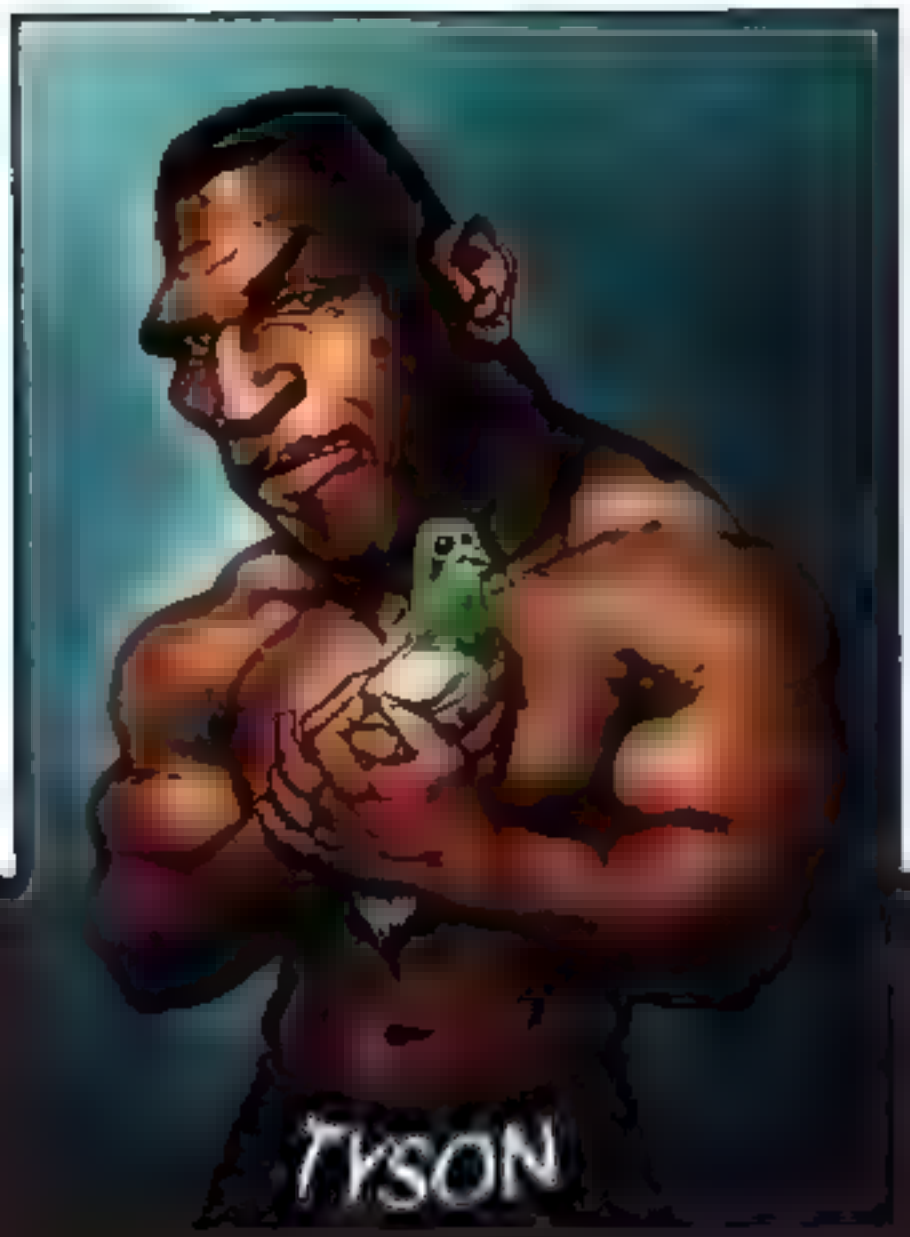


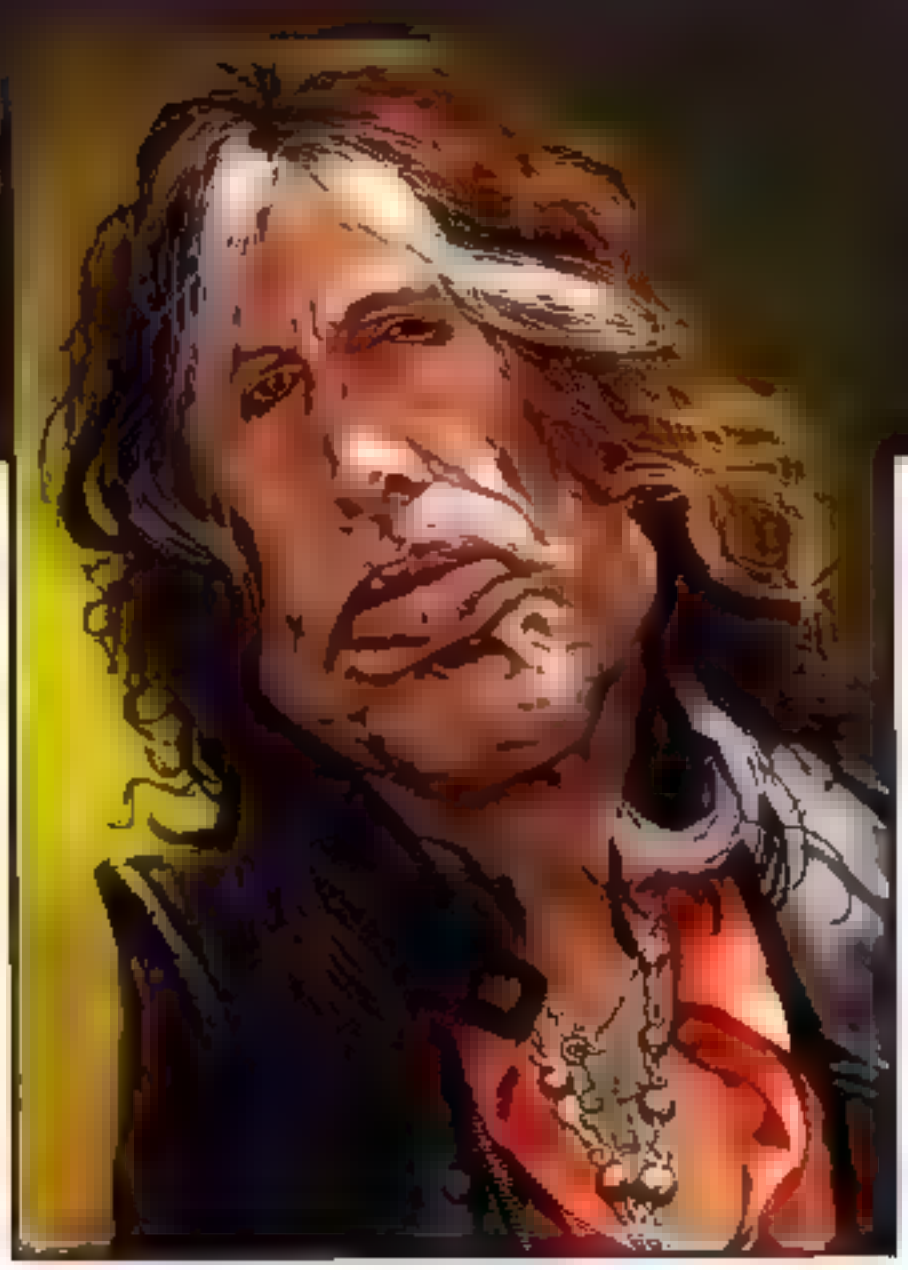


The
TWILIGHT
ZONE

NOTORIOUS




TYSON



THEY CAME FROM THE STARS.

the ASCENSION

FOR MANY OF US, IT CHALLENGED EVERYTHING THAT WE BELIEVED IN.

FEW PEOPLE ACTUALLY WELCOMED THEM.

THE ALIENS' ARRIVAL FILLED THEM WITH HOPE.

THE HOPE THEY HAD LOST FOR THE SURVIVAL OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION.

THE ALIENS' KNOWLEDGE LEAD TO THE CURE OF ALL ILLNESS AND DISEASE KNOWN TO MAN, INCLUDING THOSE CREATED BY HIS OWN HAND.

THEY BROUGHT NEW SPECIES THAT ALLEVIATED ALL FEAR OF FAMINE THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE

HOWEVER, THERE WAS LITTLE THAT THEY COULD DO REGARDING EROSION AND CONTAMINATION.

WE HAD RUINED THE ENVIRONMENT

IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO MANKIND, THEY REQUESTED JUST ONE THING' WORKERS.

THIS WAS A BOON FOR THE COLLAPSED GLOBAL ECONOMY

PHYSICAL LABOR WAS ALWAYS IN DEMAND ON THEIR GREAT SHIPS.

FAR FROM THE STANDARDS AND PRACTICES OF EARTH, THE SHIFTS WERE ENDLESS.

THE WORK WAS HARD, BUT THE PAY WAS MUCH BETTER THAN ANY JOBS FOUND ON THE "GROUND."

VERY FEW GAINED ENTRANCE TO THE ALIENS' DOMICILE.

AND THOSE WHO DID SAID IT WAS LIKE PARADISE ITSELF.

TIME PASSED, AND A NEW KIND OF WORKER WAS REQUIRED.

THE PAY: THE HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO LIVE AMONG THEM.

THEY CALLED THIS NEW TASK "THE ASENCION."

THE GOAL. DEFEAT ONE OF THEM..

..IN HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT

..TO THE DEATH

OF COURSE, THEY GAVE US THE ADVANTAGE.

BUT EVEN *OUTNUMBERING* THEM TWENTY TO ONE.

THEY COULD NOT BE BESTED.

SO. IN ORDER TO MAKE THE ASENCION POSSIBLE, THEY CHANGED THE RULES TO "BENEFIT" THE EARTHLINGS

WE WOULDN'T FIGHT THEM ANYMORE.

WE WOULD FIGHT ONE ANOTHER.

OF THE FIRST FORTY, ONLY FIVE SURVIVED.

THE BLOODBATHS CONTINUED

MILLIONS AROUND THE WORLD WITNESSED THE FIRST ASENCION, AMIDST SCANDAL, MORBID ENVY, AND JOY

SOME RAISED THEIR VOICES AGAINST IT SAYING THAT THE ASENCION WAS A BRUTAL MANIPULATION OF TRUST

BUT THOSE WERE THE VOICES OF ELDERS, WHO WERE ACCUSED OF FEARING PROGRESS.

AND THE VOICES OF THOSE WHO ASCENDED ALWAYS RANG LOUDER IN THE MEDIA.

THEIR WORDS WERE LIKE GOLD TO THE EARS OF THOSE THAT WERE GREEDY FOR HOPE

AT THIS POINT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO FIND WORK, EVEN ON THE GREAT SHIPS.

BUT OF COURSE, THERE WAS ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE IN THE ARENA.

THUS LEGIONS MORE DECIDED THAT THE ONLY PATH TO A BETTER LIFE WAS THROUGH PROVING THEIR MERIT IN WHAT THEY BEGAN TO CALL "SAVAGE COMBAT."

FOR EVERY ONE ASENCION, THERE WERE ENDLESS DEAD.

AND FOR EACH ONE THAT FELL, A THOUSAND MORE WERE ALL TOO WILLING TO PAY IN BLOOD FOR THEIR CHANCE TO LIVE IN THAT WONDERFUL WORLD

BUT PRECIOUS FEW EVER ASCENDED.

MANY OF US HAD EMIGRATED AS WORKERS TO THE BARRACK SHIPS, WHICH ARE LINKED TO AND DEPENDENT UPON THE "HIGH SPHERES," THE NAME FOR THE ALIENS' HOME VESSELS.

OUR LABOR WAS VITAL TO MAINTAIN STABILITY AND FUNCTIONALITY OF THOSE HOUSE SHIPS

MANY OF US HAD FAILED ON OUR ROAD TO THE ASENCION.

WE NO LONGER CARED FOR ANYTHING EXCEPT WHAT WE RECEIVED FROM THE ALIENS, DESPITE ITS COST

WE WERE SURE IT WAS THE RIGHT PRICE TO PAY FOR LIVING "THE GOOD LIFE."

BIG CITIES THAT WERE LONG AGO OVERPOPULATED, BEGAN TO LOOK EMPTY

THOSE REMAINING, WHO CALLED THEMSELVES "THE GROUNDED," WERE NOT SURPRISED WHEN THE VISITORS ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE LEAVING THIS PLANET

TAKING WITH THEM THE WORKERS AND THOSE WHO HAD ASCENDED.

THEY OFFERED A FINAL CHANCE TO THE SCEPTICS TO JOIN THEM AND ESCAPE EARTH'S DESOLATION.

AND THE FEW GROUNDED, WHO HAD SEEN THE ALIENS' INTERVENTION AS A YOKE, BECAME FEWER STILL.

SO VERY FEW...

ON A RUINED WORLD.

WERE THEY THE TRULY ASCENDED, CHOOSING TO STAY AND FIGHT TO SAVE A DEVASTATED HOMEWORLD?

OR JUST A BUNCH OF BRAINLESS COWARDS THAT HAD SEEN AN ENEMY WHERE THERE WAS REALLY A FRIEND OFFERING A HELPING HAND?

ONLY THE EMPTINESS OF SPACE ANSWERS US NOW

BECAUSE WE ARE TIED TO THESE SHIPS, WE WILL NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN.

WE LIVE EVERY DAY WITH OUR OWN WILL DENIED TO US.

AS SLAVES TOILING OVER COLD MACHINES.

OR IN THEIR SPACE ARENAS, BLEEDING AND SCREAMING, DYING FOR THEIR AMUSEMENT BY OUR OWN HANDS.

WE ARE A BROKEN KIND.

WHO WAIL AND CURSE THE LIE OF THE ASENCION.

END

THE NEPHTHYS CHRONICLES

STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT

PENCILLER PASQUALE QUALANO

LETTERING GREGORY BROWN

SHE SWALLOWS THE BARQUE OF THE SUN EACH MORNING AFTER ITS [illegible] THROUGH

[illegible] GIVES BIRTH TO IT EACH

NUIT HAS TWO TWIN DAUGHTERS. ISIS, THE GODDESS OF LIFE.

WHAT A FUCKING MISERABLE. . . WHO THE HELL GETS DIVORCED AND FIRED N THE SAME DAY?

SIGN THE PAPERS!

YOU RE TAKING EVERYTHING. HOW AM I SUPPOSED. . .

THIS S THE BEST DEAL YOU'RE GOING TO GET.

AST N, YOU RE JUST NOT A TEAM PLAYER.

BUT, I'VE GIVEN MY LIFE TO TH S PLACE.

SECURITY CAN WALK YOL TO YOUR CAR.

THAT REALLY SUCKS, MAN. GOOD LUCK.

HMMM. NEVER NOTICED THAT BEFORE.

WHY NOT?

I DON'T USUALLY.

NO ONE EVER DOES.

GIRLS HOT?

NO ONE COMPLAINS.

HOW ABOUT SOMETHING MORE PERSONAL?

$200 FOR A FIVE-SONG PARTY YOU WON'T FORGET. CASH

WHAT'VE YOU GOT TO LOSE? TRY ME.

OH MY GOD! YOU LOOK JUST LIKE. . .

WHAT S THE MATTER LOVER?

WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON HERE?

I'M OUTA HERE.

FINDING ANYTH NG TO YOUR LIKING, YOUNG MAN?

SOMETH NG'S REALLY MESSED UP. ALL OF THESE DANCERS LOOK JUST LIKE MY EX-W FE.

NAME'S SET. SO YOU SAY THEY ALL LOOK THE SAME. SURE LOOK DIFFERENT TO ME.

THIS IS FUCKED UP, MAN

WE'VE GOT A REAL SPECIAL DANCER. OUT BACK. ONE OF A KIND. SHE'LL ROCK YOUR WORLD.

YOU OWE YOURSELF A LOOK, ANYWAY.

NO ONE'S EVER BEEN DISAPPOINTED IN HER. NOT EVER.

SO FAR, YOUR PREDICTIONS HAVE SUCKED.

BIT OF A WALK, THOUGH.

I AM ALLOWED NO FURTHER.

YEAH, WHATEVER.

GOOD EVENING, ASTIN.

HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?

YOU'RE A GODDESS!

YES, ACTUALLY, I AM.

THE GODDESS NEPHTHYS.

BUT, WHAT'S IN A NAME?

YOURS MEANS "STAR," BY THE WAY.

ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU'D RATHER DO THAN TALK?

COME TO ME.

AAAAHHHHHHHHHH. OH, LOVER!

OH MY GOD!

GODDESS, I SHOULD THINK-

CRUNNNCHH

MMMMM...

AAAAHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!

DEAREST MOTHER, NUIT- FOR YOU.

A NEW STAR IN THE COMPANY OF STARS.

EVERY MAN AND EVERY WOMAN IS A STAR - ALEISTER CROWLEY.

HEAVY METAL